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Have yourselves a
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little
CHRISTMAS
THEN GET READY FOR THE REDS TO RELOAD IN THE NEW YEAR!
CARVALHO ON HIS FOOTBALLING HEROES AND HIS LFC DREAMS

Official main club partner of Liverpool Football Club





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JORDAN FIRES HOME

Only two Liverpool players may have been named in Gareth Southgate's World Cup squad, but it was a goal from one of them which set England on their way to a quarter-final tie with France. A few minutes before half-time against Senegal, a fine counter-attack ended with Jordan Henderson sweeping home Jude Bellingham's square-ball to put his country one-up in Qatar. World-class.


8
SENEGAL
04.12.22
8
PUMA

MEET THE NEW NIKE FLIGHT MATCH BALL.





CORNER TAKEN QUICKLY



Just like Barcelona in 2019, the page where you don't know what to expect…

LFC WOMEN CHRISTMAS XI

RachaELF Laws
Emma Koivisto HO HO
CANDY van den Berg
CHRISTMAS Niamh Fahey
Sophie JINGLE
CHRISTMISSY Bo Kearns
Carla LA LA LA Humphrey
MERI Holland
CHRISTMAS CAROLine Weir
AshSLEIGH Hodson
BETHLEHEM England

OUR LADS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

Mohamed Salah (Nagrig, Egypt)

Two-and-a-half hours north of Egyptian capital Cairo is the village of Nagrig, situated close to the city of Basyoun in the Gharbia Governorate.

With a population of around 15,000, Nagrig is accessed via dirt-tracks. It is so small that visiting journalists reported it doesn't have a road sign, but then the murals of a certain Liverpool star on various walls indicate where you are.

Nagrig is where Mo Salah was born in June 1992 and thanks to his generosity the school he studied at has been redeveloped and various other projects funded.

But not everyone can play football for a living and the majority of local people work in agriculture with Nagrig's main exports being jasmine and onions, which seems appropriate for a place that produced a footballer who is different gravy.

An erratic water supply in Nagrig meant that the grass pitch that Mo used to kick a ball around on there had to be replaced by astroturf, but the microbuses that Salah caught to Cairo to chase his dream of being a footballer are still running.

We can also confirm that Nagirg doesn't have a throne – as the Egyptian King has been in Liverpool since 2017…



RANDOM CHANT OF THE MONTH

"Mane scoring, all around me,
Kopites singing, having fun,
Tis the season, love and understanding,
Merry Christmas, Everton!"



BLAGGING IT

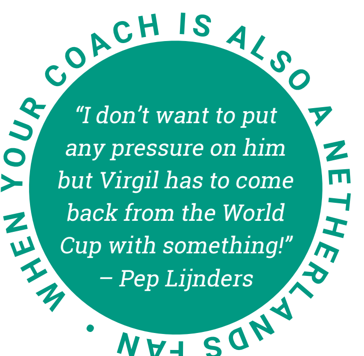
The fifth and final Indiana Jones movie will be released in 2023 and don't be surprised if one Liverpool striker goes to see it as there is a family connection with the lead character, but what is it?

- Darwin Nunez has a brother called Henry.
- Darwin Nunez has a brother called Indiana.
- Darwin Nunez has a brother called Junior.

Answer: As amazing a name as Indiana Nunez would be, Darwin's brother is called Junior – the same name that Henry 'Indiana' Jones Junior is known as by his dad who revealed in The Last Crusade that 'Indiana' was the name of his dog!

MOST LFC WINS IN EUROPE

Manager	Wins	Games
Jürgen Klopp	49	79
Rafa Benitez	49	85
Bob Paisley	39	61
Bill Shankly	34	65
Gerard Houllier	26	52
Joe Fagan	14	19
Brendan Rodgers	9	22
Roy Evans	8	16
Roy Hodgson	6	10
Graeme Souness	6	12



HARV TIME

The World Cup interlude gives us a chance to catch up with midfielder Harvey Elliott and retrace his path to LFC

Words: William Hughes



Back in August 2011 the Reds won 3-1 at Exeter City in the second round of the League Cup. Eight-year-old supporter Harvey Elliott would have been delighted that goals from Luis Suarez, Maxi Rodriguez and Andy Carroll had seen his favourite team progress to the next round, but dad Scott, a huge Liverpool fan himself, was feeling somewhat subdued.

Earlier that day the Elliott family had received disappointing news from Anfield. Over the summer Scott had written to the club to see whether his son could test himself at the LFC Academy where he was sure Harvey would hold his own, having already established a burgeoning reputation as a little lad with a magic left foot.

The problem was that the Elliotts lived in Virginia Water, Surrey, more than 200 miles away.

"Thank you for your recent letter," read the reply. "Unfortunately there are Premier League rules regarding travel distance for players. For Harvey, this would mean that he has to live within one hour's travel distance of the academy to which he applies. Therefore, Harvey needs to approach a local club."

Elliott, still a teenager and closing in on 50 first-team appearances for the Reds now, smiles as he recalls the story. "You know what, I didn't actually know about the letter until I signed for Liverpool! My dad brought it out and I didn't think he was being serious when he told me. I just started looking at him as if to say, 'What were you doing? Why would you do that?' I didn't actually understand until that moment how much he loved Liverpool.

"Obviously he's been to so many games and travelled all around England and the world with them so I knew he supported them. But when he brought that letter out, I was thinking: oh, he actually loves them with a passion. And this is what he wanted to do, to have his son play for Liverpool.





"To be able to do that for him and just to make him proud more than anything, it's a wonderful, wonderful feeling for myself."

Dad Scott's regular seat at Anfield is adjacent to the press box in the Main Stand and journalists present at the club-record 9-0 Premier League win over Bournemouth back in August were treated to a lovely moment when Harvey put the Reds two goals to the good in the sixth minute. It was his first Premier League goal and Scott celebrated even more wildly than his son!

"Just going out on the pitch knowing that he's in the stand smiling or doing something crazy like some people have seen is very special," adds Harvey.

"He's got a legend status to say the least, especially in the family – everyone's been pulling out things from what he's been doing and what he's been caught on camera doing. I just hope he's not doing anything too mad!"

The letter Scott sent eleven years ago also contained a request for a signed shirt. The club replied: "As to a signed shirt, if you send a shirt to us we will arrange for it to be autographed although we cannot give you a timescale of how long this will take to be done. We wish Harvey good luck with his footballing career."

Elliott continues: "I don't remember getting a shirt, but I think we may have got one and my dad's taken it because it would have been great for him!

"I don't know if that was a little trick into getting one from the players. Honestly I don't know what he was thinking but I didn't get the shirt! He's probably got it somewhere or he may even have had it framed and told me a little white lie just so I wouldn't get annoyed!

"Liverpool are a great club and they're a family club as well so I'm sure they would have given us one. There are a few signed shirts lying around the house in his wardrobe so it's probably one of those. I need to investigate but we'll see!"

"JUST GOING OUT ON THE PITCH KNOWING THAT MY DAD IS IN THE STANDS SMILING OR DOING SOMETHING CRAZY LIKE SOME PEOPLE HAVE SEEN IS VERY SPECIAL"

And as to the whereabouts of the letter? "I think it's actually with Liverpool somewhere or maybe someone put it in the bin! We have a draft copy. It's something to look back on in many years to come and a good memory for him now.

"To be living the dream here is amazing and it's something maybe to show my kids growing up. It's great because it shows anyone that if you have a dream, you can achieve it – you just have to make sure that you put the work and effort into getting there."

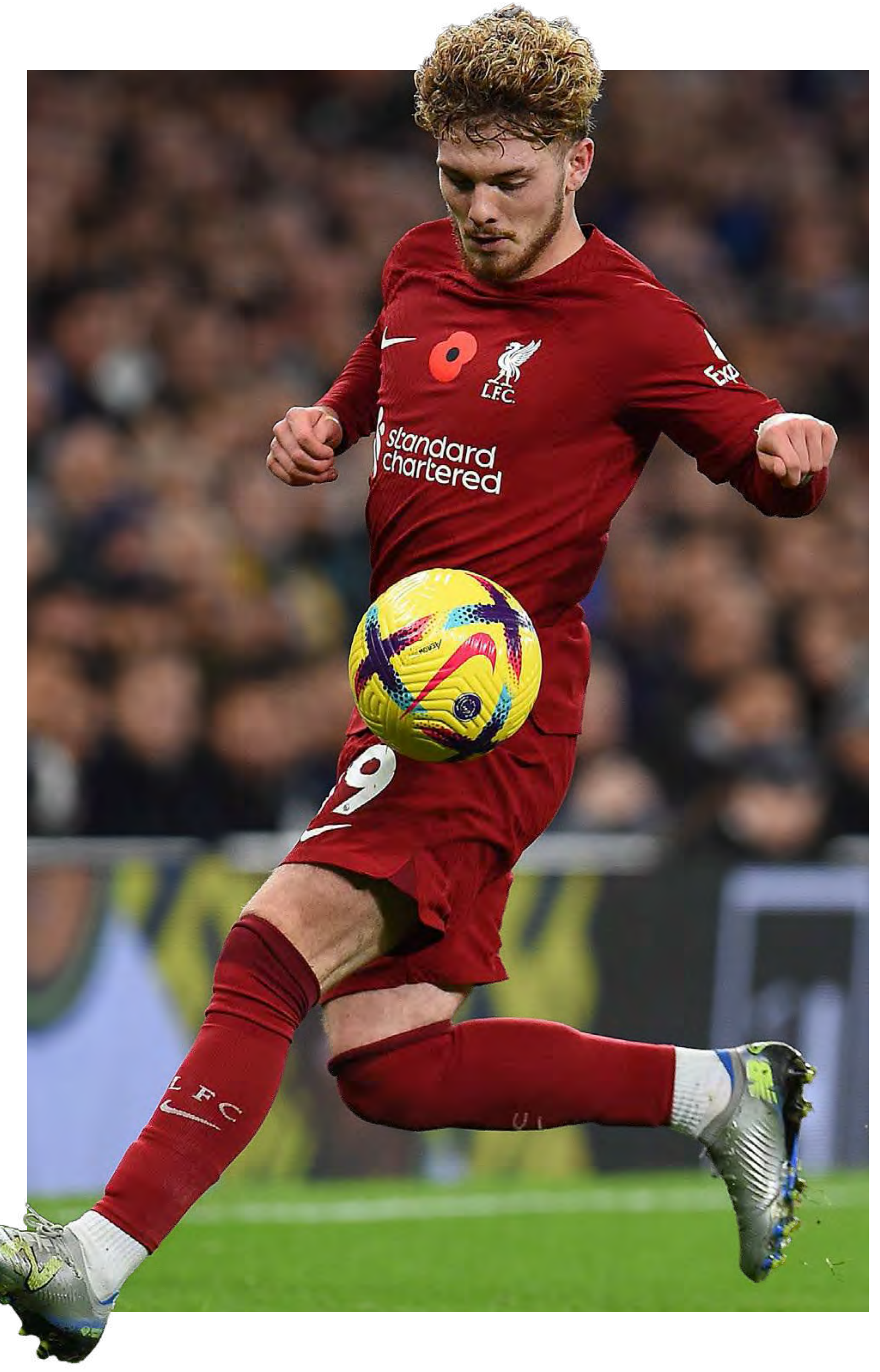
The first step towards doing that was to take the Reds' advice about approaching a more local club and Harvey joined the academy at Queens Park Rangers.

"I think looking back now I loved being at an academy club and playing academy football. I just remember going to the matches with my dad and we'd be listening to music, just enjoying the moment together.

"Just putting the kit on was something special to me. Back in the day I used to play for my local team and you arrived in the kit and you'd go home in the dirty kit that you'd played in. So it was that change of just walking into the dressing-room and seeing all the shirts laid out on the hangers.






standard
chartered

"It was a lovely moment for me just to have that change and something different to the normal growing up which was, as I say, going in your kit, leaving in your kit, stinking the car out – your mum and dad getting annoyed at you because your boots were all smelly and you'd put them in a plastic bag or something!

"As a kid you felt like a million dollars, going in and seeing all the kit laid out and your boots there. So yes, growing up playing for QPR helped to get me to where I am today so it's a massive big thanks to them really."

So what about being known from a young age for the quality of his left foot? "Well, I never really had a right foot and I don't really have one now to be honest! I don't know how I got to be left-footed because all my family are right-footed.

"In that way I was the different one in the family with the special left foot. I just remember playing in the park as a little kid as every kid would with their family and with my friends and there are so many stories that I've had along the way, especially with my mum and dad taking me to football and my dad especially driving me all around England to play in all these matches for my local team, QPR or Fulham, growing up.

"So it's been a very good journey and to be where I am today is just amazing."

"TO BE ABLE TO BE HERE AND TO BE ABLE TO SAY I'VE DONE IT IS JUST AMAZING AND I CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS HOW IT FEELS, BUT HOPEFULLY THERE WILL BE MANY MORE YEARS TO COME AND I CAN STAY HERE FOR THE REST OF MY CAREER. THAT WOULD BE AMAZING"



PDF NEWSPAPERS and MAGAZINES: WWW.XSAVA.XYZ

Would the young Elliott who dazzled on muddy pitches around the capital have ever thought he would be playing regularly on the Premier League and Champions League stages before his teenage years were over?

"Absolutely not. I mean, I was too small for starters! Clubs would say that I was too small but it just shows that the game can change. It's not all about being the tallest or being the strongest – you can be the smallest and skinniest like me and still play professional football.

"So yes, of course, for kids it's not nice to hear and I had a few experiences like that but I never thought I'd be able to go out and play at stadiums like Anfield. It is a dream that I've had my whole life.

"To be able to be here and to be able to say I've done it is just amazing and I can't put into words how it feels but hopefully there will be many more years to come and I can stay here for the rest of my career. That would be amazing."





Harvey joined Fulham in 2018 and quickly made his mark, earning a senior debut in a League Cup third-round tie at Millwall in September 2018, aged just 15 years and 174 days old. He was the Cottagers' youngest first-team player and also the youngest player to appear in the League Cup.

It is a tournament he has continued to enjoy. After featuring in last season's final triumph over Chelsea at Wembley, he ensured the Reds made a winning start to their defence of the trophy when he rolled in the winning spot-kick of a dramatic shoot-out to conclude last month's third-round tie with Derby County.

In May 2019 he became the youngest person to play in the Premier League when, still with Fulham, he replaced midfielder Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa in a 1-0 defeat at Wolves. He was 16 years and 30 days old.



"I COULD JUST LET IT ALL GO"

Back in February, Harvey enjoyed a moment he had always dreamed of – scoring his first goal for Liverpool in front of the Kop. It came after his return from a long-term injury as he came on as a substitute in the FA Cup fourth-round tie with Cardiff City.

"I think the emotions of it were hard," he recalls. "I was trying to enjoy the moment but at the same time to have gone through what I went through with the injury and then to score at the Kop end and to have my family in the stands as well… there were so many things just playing on my mind.

"I think it was just a massive relief for me. I was angry as well but it was like all the things that I went through throughout my injury, it was just that outburst where I could just let it all go and let myself be free again.

"Just to know that I'd got through it and to come out on the right side. It was a weird story. First game back, coming on, scoring after being out for four-and-a-half months and all the hard work that I went through."



“WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT LIVERPOOL WANTING TO SPEAK TO ME, I THINK I INITIALLY STARTED PACKING MY BAGS OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS BECAUSE I JUST WANTED TO COME UP HERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, JUST TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE CITY AND TO SEE ALL THE PLAYERS AND TO PLAY!”



"I don't think I actually enjoyed it as much as I should have," he says. "When I look back at photos and see my face, I look really annoyed – I don't know why! But I didn't actually think about what was going on.

"Obviously I could hear the talks before the games towards the end of the season as to if I was to get on the pitch and become a Premier League player. So you hear all those talks and stuff but you don't actually realise what it means until you're on the pitch and then are able to come on and just experience Premier League football.

"My mum and dad were there as well in the crowd and looking back at it now it was the start of something special for me. I think we have these pictures somewhere in the house.

"I'm just grateful to Fulham for having given me the opportunity to go out and showcase what I could do and to play with those players as well was unbelievable."

In July 2019 he realised that family dream of signing for Liverpool. Harvey admits that he started packing his bags the moment he learned of the Reds' interest!

"I instantly said yes! I was like, 'I want to go, I want to go'. Then everyone needed to calm me down and say, 'Oh it doesn't work like that – we need to speak, we need to sort things out'.

"But when I heard about Liverpool wanting to speak to me, I think I initially started packing my bags over the next couple of days because I just wanted to come up here as quickly as possible, just to be able to see the city and to see all the players and to play!

"So they needed to calm me down and said, 'We need to have a few conversations and make sure that everything's right – then hopefully you can go' As I say, I was just so excited to come and play for Liverpool."

This season Harvey has swapped his squad number of 67 for 19. He has previously shared a photograph of himself as a youngster with Sadio Mane, a previous occupant of the Reds' no19 jersey.

He explains: "The number all made sense, to be honest, being 19 years old and then growing up my favourite player for Liverpool was Sadio Mane after he joined. I always used to have his shirts.









MOST GAMES FOR LIVERPOOL IN 2022/23

22 Harvey Elliott

21 Virgil Van Dijk, Fabinho, Roberto Firmino, Mohamed Salah

20 Trent Alexander-Arnold, Alisson Becker

• Up to World Cup finals break on 12.11.22

"EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG, THE KIDS EITHER LOVED MESSI OR RONALDO. FOR ME IT WAS JUST MESSI, BEING LEFT FOOTED AND RELATIVELY SMALL AS WELL"

"Every time a new shirt would come out for a new season I would always have his number until I started playing for Liverpool myself and that's when I needed to have my own shirts! So yes, growing up I loved Mane and I still do now. He was a great guy to me and an unbelievable player as well. So just to be able to wear that shirt after him is amazing for me and I'm very proud to do so."

Aside from Mane, he says he couldn't stray too far from the revered Lionel Messi for his other childhood footballing idol. "I love Messi. I'm a massive Messi fan so I'd have to say him.

"Ever since I was young, the kids either loved Messi or Ronaldo. For me it was just Messi, being left footed and relatively small as well. To be able to watch him - and I've seen him a few times live – it's just so special. Hopefully we get to play against him sometime because he's an unbelievable player and one of the best in football history."

As for his own journey, Harvey has already played more games for Liverpool this season than any other since he joined the club – and more matches so far this term than any of his team-mates.

"My aspiration is to stay here for the rest of my career," he says. "It feels like home now and all my family have moved up with me. To be able to come and see Anfield and drive past it every single day on my way to the training ground and to be in and around these world-class players – for me, there's no better place to be.

"So yes, my ambition would be to stay here for the rest of my career and make sure we win as many trophies as we can."





OTHER FABULOUS **LEFT-FOOTERS**

ALAN KENNEDY: what he may have lacked in finesse 'Barney Rubble' made up for with power and energy as a European Cup-winning full-back.

FABIO AURELIO: Brazilian left-back famous for scoring from the cutest free-kicks at Old Trafford and Stamford Bridge.

DANIEL AGGER: the elegant Dane provided balance and belief in central defence and chipped in with some important goals too.

STEVE HEIGHWAY: "Give it to Heighway!" roared the Spion Kop in the 1970s, and no wonder we had dreams and songs to sing. Hugged that left wing in style.

STEWART DOWNING: a member now of the LFC Legends, he was our man of the match in the 2012 Carling Cup final victory over Cardiff City.

CHARLIE ADAM: the Scottish midfielder possessed that languid left-footed gait which set him apart from his peers, and he could shoot too.

JOHN ARNE RIISE: marauding Norwegian left-back who played under Gerard Houllier then Rafa Benitez, and when he hit the ball, it stayed hit. A Champions League winner in 2005.

STEVE STAUNTON: 'Stan' could play left-back or centre-half and once went in goal, and enjoyed two spells at Liverpool.

RAY KENNEDY: built like a heavyweight boxer but with the touch of a violinist, 'Razor' made it all look so effortless in front of goal. An integral member of the all-conquering late 70s side.

JOHN BARNES: left-footed LFC legend who wowed the Kop from his first season at Anfield with his shooting, dribbling and passing. If you were there to witness it, you were so, so lucky.

PATRIK BERGER: the Czech midfielder with pin-up good looks possessed a fearsome shot and found the net many-a-time in the red jersey. Now turning out for the LFC Legends.

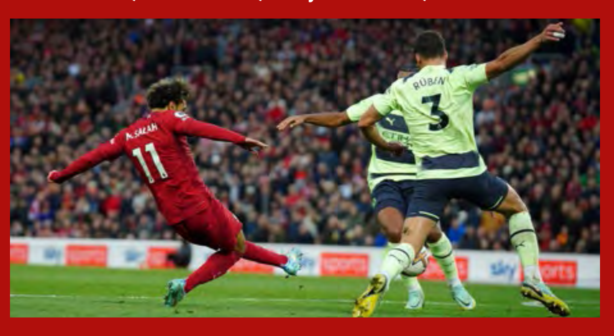
HARRY KEWELL: grace and guile matched with a great left foot made the Aussie attacking ace an absolute pleasure to watch when he could steer clear of injury.

DANIEL STURRIDGE: Studge was a joy to watch in his pomp, all delicate flicks and deadly split-second finishes from any angle.

ROBBIE FOWLER: 'unerring' best describes his finishing with that lethal left foot. God-given talent in the no9 jersey.

MO SALAH: we've tried to keep it retro but how could we possibly leave out the one and only Egyptian King?

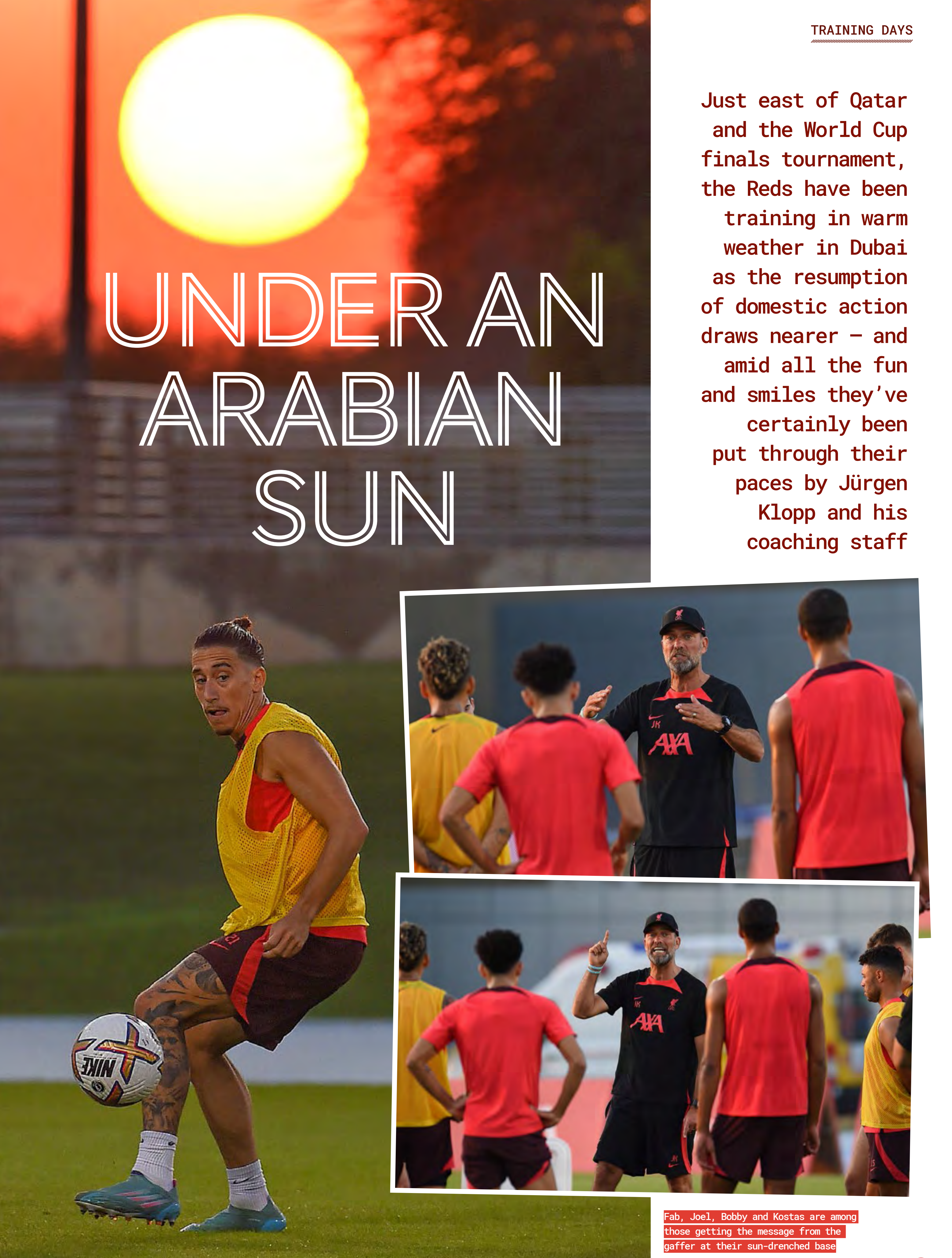
HONOURABLE MENTIONS: Ray Clemence, Jerzy Dudek, Ronnie Moran, Alec Lindsay, Stig Inge Bjornebye, Djimi Traore, Bolo Zenden, Albert Riera, Andy Robertson, Kostas Tsimikas.





UNDER AN ARABIAN SUN

Just east of Qatar and the World Cup finals tournament, the Reds have been training in warm weather in Dubai as the resumption of domestic action draws nearer – and amid all the fun and smiles they've certainly been put through their paces by Jürgen Klopp and his coaching staff



Fab, Joel, Bobby and Kostas are among those getting the message from the gaffer at their sun-drenched base



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Not something you'd enjoy as much outdoors back in Kirkby right now

Naby looking happy and healthy for the restart

Feeling the heat? Nah, Mo's looking way too cool

Liverpool named an initial 33-man squad for the training camp with players participating in the World Cup rejoining at later dates

Harvey making a splash

Adrian in action

Our midfield magician up to his usual tricks





Robbo versus Mo – it's a left-footed thing

On me head, sun... Bobby, Fab and Milly catching the last rays of the day



Red Together

Our commitment to
champion equality, diversity and inclusion



MILESTONE MAKERS

Reds aces Niamh and Gilly celebrate club and league landmarks respectively in the colours of Liverpool

Liverpool FC Women captain Niamh Fahey became the latest member of an exclusive club when she led the team to a 2-0 win over West Ham United Women at Prenton Park on 4 December.

The Republic of Ireland international made her 100th appearance for the Reds in the Barclays Women's Super League victory over the Hammers, becoming only the third Liverpool FC Women centurion of the WSL era in the process.

Fahey joined club-record appearance holder Ashley Hodson (135), currently on loan at Birmingham City, and former double WSL-winning captain Gemma Bonner (114) in the Reds' 100 Club.

"Getting the win was a nice way to mark my 100th appearance for Liverpool," she said. "To become only the third person to make that number of appearances for the club is a big landmark and I am extremely proud to have made that step for Liverpool."

Galway-born Niamh grew up in a family of Liverpool supporters and admits that at a young age she dreamed of representing the team.

"It's something that I never would have thought possible when I was playing in my back-garden pretending to be scoring goals for Liverpool.

"It's incredible to be living out that reality and playing for the club, even if I may not have scored quite as many goals as I did in my garden!





"I just remember being a little girl in the garden and having whatever Liverpool kit I had on at the time. It was mainly the Reebok strip back then and I remember looking at the crest and pretending I was out there playing, so this really is the stuff of dreams.

"I had so many heroes at the time, all the legends and there were plenty to choose from. But I think Michael Owen was the one I probably admired most because as I was getting older, he was just taking off.

"Now to join that list with Ash and Gemma Bonner, people who have represented the club with distinction, is amazing and I'm very proud to be part of that exclusive list."

In November, her Liverpool team-mate Gilly Flaherty also reached a significant milestone when she became the Women's Super League's record appearance-holder.

The centre-back played her 176th game in the competition during the 3-3 draw at Brighton & Hove Albion, surpassing the previous best total set by Lionesses legend and 'Queen of the Jungle', Jill Scott!

Gilly had previously played for London sides Arsenal, Chelsea and West Ham.

Interview: William Hughes

THIS IS
LIVER POOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
ANFIELD

LFC 81 Part 1



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF...

It's action stations for the Anfield team behind scenes

It is 7.30 on Saturday evening. The Anfield pitch, scarred after the reserve match that afternoon, has had first-aid from Arthur Riley and his ground staff. Bert Johnson, the maintenance manager, makes a final check that everything is secure. The floodlights go out.

Two hundred miles away, on Platform 13 of Euston Station, the members of the most famous team in Europe are crowding into the restaurant car of their train back to Liverpool. They have only drawn 2-2 at relegation-haunted Brighton and no-one is expecting champagne.

A week has ended. Another one starts...

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Testing week

Agreed

Four decades ago a behind-the-scenes piece at Anfield like no other appeared in the Liverpool Echo, and you're cordially invited inside...

In February 1981 the *Liverpool Echo* newspaper was granted exclusive behind-the-scenes access to Liverpool Football Club for a week.

From bootroom to boardroom, ticket office to ground staff, dressing-room to canteen and from manager Bob Paisley to secretary Peter Robinson, the Echo saw at first-hand how every aspect of the club was run at Anfield and Melwood.

Paisley's Reds were champions of England but on a terrible run of form. They'd failed to win any of their previous six games, including a 2-1 FA Cup defeat to Everton at Goodison Park, and had slipped from top of the old Division One on New Year's Day 1981 to third place – eight points behind leaders Ipswich Town having played a game more.

Yet Liverpool had reached the League Cup final against West Ham United and also had a European Cup third-round tie against CSKA Sofia to prepare for.

We pick up the story on the evening of Saturday 21 February 1981 ahead of a busy week that would end with the return of a European Cup-winning legend to Anfield...

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

It's action stations for the Anfield team behind the scenes. It's 7.30pm on Saturday evening. The Anfield pitch, scarred after the reserve match that afternoon, has had first-aid from [former LFC goalkeeper] Arthur Riley and his ground staff. Bert Johnson, the maintenance manager, makes a final check that everything is secure. The floodlights go out.





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Bert Johnson, maintenance supervisor, with members of the Anfield ground staff

Two hundred miles away, on platform 13 of Euston Station, the members of the most famous team in Europe are crowding into the restaurant car on their train back to Liverpool. They have only drawn 2-2 at relegation-haunted Brighton and no-one is expecting champagne.

A week has ended. Another one starts ...

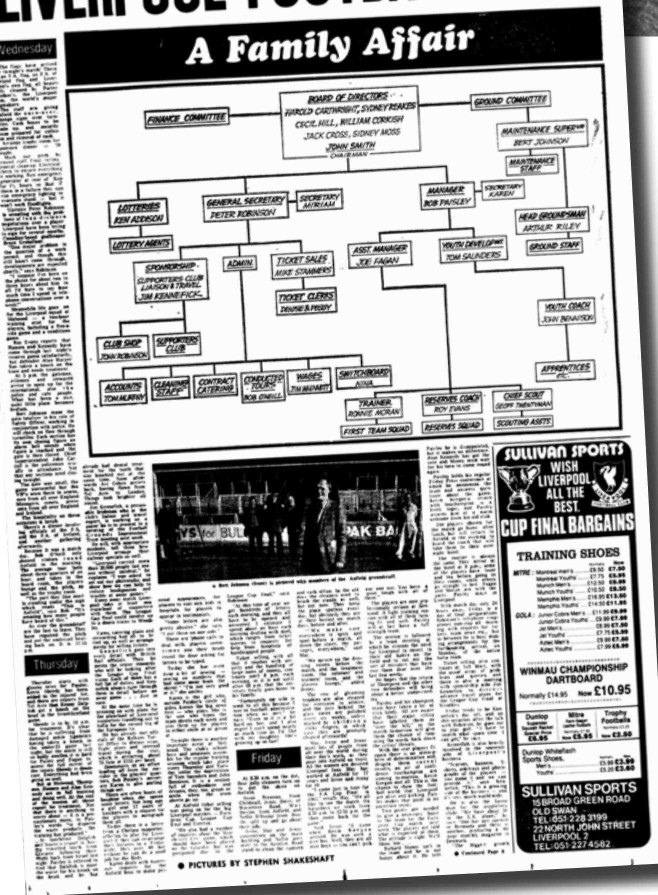
SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Sunday is a day off at Anfield – but not for manager Bob Paisley and his aides. At half-past-ten Paisley is at his desk dealing with some of the paperwork that has accumulated. In the treatment room Joe Fagan is treating four players who are nursing injuries – Phil Thompson, Alan Hansen, Alan Kennedy and David Fairclough. Ronnie Moran and reserve coach Roy Evans are also at the ground, checking on kit requirements for the coming week.

At 12.30pm, when most men are contemplating either Sunday lunch or a pint, Paisley and his assistants gather for one of their most important chats of the week.

In the famous Anfield bootroom, where many-a-plot has been hatched to overcome opponents from all over the globe, the Liverpool manager weighs up the club's current state of health along with Fagan, Moran, Evans, and youth development officer Tom Saunders. Paisley is not happy about the way two goals were conceded in the first nine minutes at Brighton. There is nothing formal about the discussion. It is a talk about what went right and what went wrong, a look back and a look ahead to the coming week.

With a star-studded playing staff, international demands are a constant worry for the managerial team despite their genuine pride in the achievements of the players. A problem this week are the international calls for Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, Avi Cohen and the young Irish duo, Kevin Sheedy and Ronnie Whelan.



LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

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YOUTH DEVELOPM'T
TOM SAUNDERS

YOUTH COACH
JOHN BENNISON

CLUB SHOP
JOHN ROBINSON

SUPPORTERS CLUB

APPRENTICES etc.

ACCOUNTS
TOM MURPHY

CLEANING STAFF

CONTRACT CATERING

CONDUCTED TOURS
BOB O'NEILL

WAGES
JIM MURRAY

SWITCHBOARD
NINA

TRAINER
RONNIE MORAN

FIRST TEAM SQUAD

RESERVES COACH
ROY EVANS

RESERVES SQUAD

CHIEF SCOUT
GEOFF TWENTYMAN

SCOUTING ASSTS

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

● PICTURES BY STEPHEN SHAKESHAFT

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Promising young Irish duo Ronnie Whelan and Kevin Sheedy

"It's always difficult with players being away, because you are never quite sure how much training they are doing," says Paisley. "It's likely that they will do more training than the others who are here, and that is something we always have to bear in mind."

Nevertheless, yesterday's Brighton game occupies much of the discussion. Paisley is anxious to hear how the injured players are coming along. The outlook on his three defenders, Thompson, Hansen and Kennedy, is encouraging.

Before going home for a late Sunday lunch, Paisley has one more important function to perform. Back in his office he brings his famous 'black book' up to date, noting details of every player including which team he played for on Saturday, or if he was absent and for what reason.

"It's amazing how the same problems crop up with the same players year after year," he says. "The value of these records is that I can refer back and see what action we took in the past and what effect it had."

Paisley and his aides – the lessons of yesterday assimilated, the target for the week resolved – make their way out to their cars. As they go they joke with Kenny Myers, the maintenance man whose job it is to repair any damage the small crowd at yesterday's reserve match may have made.

There is one door to be repaired, a burst pipe to fix. An easy Sunday. But for the groundsmen out on the pitch there is the whole afternoon ahead of them, replacing divots, rolling and spiking the pitch. They are home for Sunday tea.

For one other Liverpool employee this Sunday cannot be a day of rest. Peter Robinson, the general secretary, is hard at work in the lounge of his home preparing the papers and figures for tomorrow's monthly board meeting. This week the get-away-from-it-all outing with his wife and daughter has had to be abandoned.

Robinson, behind his diffident charm, is very much the Mr Efficiency. He has the complete trust of his chairman, John Smith.

"The board meeting is one of the few occasions that the chairman actually comes to the club, apart from matches," explains Robinson. "The chairman leaves us all to do our respective jobs without interference, and so do the other directors. Matches, board meetings and committee meetings are the only times they come here, to decide on basic policy and monitor what's being done.

"Our chairman is a very busy man. He's on the Sports Council, a magistrate, a member of the Football Trust, chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh award industrial scheme and has just finished chairing a national report into British tennis as well as having his own business interests.

"Even so, he rings me every morning to find out if anything has cropped up that needs a decision, and also rings me again in the evening. Though we don't see much of him, he's always there when he's wanted."

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Bob O'Neill has been a Liverpool fan for 62 years. For the last five he's been showing visitors around Anfield as a full-time expert guide. Today he had a party of some 40 young footballers from Belgium, as well as a group of disabled children.

"I bring the disabled people up in the lift to show them the trophy room," he says. "Then I take them down again, wheel them around the ground and in through a side-door where there's a ramp, so they can see the pitch close up. With the kids, we usually try to arrange for a player or two to sign autographs and have a chat with them.

"We get people from all over the world. Only the other day I had a letter of thanks from the Korean ambassador, who came here with his wife and son.

"Last week was an extra busy one – we must have had more than 400 people around in all. When I first came here there were only a few parties, but now it's become quite a big thing.

"I show them the little clock Brian Clough gave us after Forest had knocked Liverpool out of the European Cup. Then there's the solid gold dagger presented during the visit to Dubai – and a replica of the World Cup commemorating Roger Hunt's appearance in the final. People are also impressed with the three Fair Play trophies Liverpool have won – and with some of the surprise items like the model of an oil drilling-rig presented by Ploiesti of Romania."

It is a depleted party of players which takes the daily coach trip to the training ground at Melwood, a few miles away in suburban West Derby. The senior players have a day-off, but those who didn't play at the weekend are in for training.

The apprentices, who work under the direction of youth coach John Bennison, are also in, and this week they are joined for training by a number of youngsters on schoolboy forms with the club who are now on half-term holiday.

The coach leaves at 10am with Ronnie Moran and Roy Evans in charge. They have already changed into training kits at Anfield.

Joe Fagan takes David Fairclough to see the specialist for an examination of his knee injury. Bob Paisley is busy preparing for the board meeting in the afternoon.

Nina, the ever-cheerful and polite telephonist-cum-receptionist, has been hard at work since 9am. The calls start coming in right away and don't stop all day. The only break she gets all week is an hour for lunch and the four lines will be buzzing continually.

Most of the inquiries are about the League Cup final and the Everton 'derby' game. And they are from all over the world. She has a call from Oslo – a travel agent wants to make a block booking of 60 Wembley seats: "People just don't appreciate how difficult it is to get



Inner sanctum: the Boot Room

WE GET PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. ONLY THE OTHER DAY I HAD A LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR, WHO CAME HERE WITH HIS WIFE AND SON

tickets," she says. "It's even harder to explain to people abroad who can't speak much English."

Throughout the week she handles calls from Bulgaria and UEFA, in connection with the European Cup games [against CSKA Sofia], as well as the routine calls from the press and the Football League.

"We get lots of calls from kids wanting the players to attend different functions," she says. "And we get our fair share of calls from fellows saying: 'We've got a bet on this, can you tell me…' and then ask a detail about who scored a cup final goal years ago. Then there are chaps who ring up saying things like 'Will you pass on this tip to Bob Paisley and tell him to play a 4-4-2 formation'."

This is to be a busy week for Nina. She's in for the usual hours, 9am to 5pm, Monday and Tuesday. But on Wednesday night there's an England Under-21 international [at Anfield] so, like the other girls, she stays until 9.30pm and the same on Thursday and Friday, when they are selling tickets until late. On Saturday, when there is a home match, she is back to a 9am to 5pm day – with not a minute to watch the football! "The only chance we have to watch is if we travel away to see them play."

Peter Robinson was in bright and early at 8.45am at the start of what he knew was going to be a testing week. With a domestic international on the Wednesday, a European Cup tie and a League Cup final in the immediate future, and a local derby with Everton soon afterwards, he knew the club's small administrative staff were going to find it heavy-going.

"European games always take up a tremendous amount of time," he points out. "Problems are increased if the game is in Eastern Europe, because communications there are generally poor and there is a language difficulty as well."

For example, Liverpool want to send Tom Saunders to watch [third-round opponents CSKA] Sofia play. Robinson arranges visas, contacts Bulgaria to find when they are playing, book seats on the plane and arrange tickets to be available. Then he has to go through the whole process again when he finds they are bringing the game forward.

He also has to arrange to look after the Sofia representatives who are coming to watch Liverpool. He doesn't know if any of them speak English, and although there is a regular Russian-speaking interpreter available at the Polytechnic, neither he nor the club knew anyone who spoke Bulgarian. Fortunately, in the end, they all speak Russian.

It is lunchtime. The coach rolls back from Melwood. There are not many famous faces for the small cluster of autograph hunters waiting in the car park. The young reserve and youth team players, still in their training kit, hurry inside for a bath and a meal.

For Ronnie Moran and Roy Evans there is a little chore that has become a ritual – washing goalkeeper gloves. Moran looks after Ray Clemence's and Evans does the same for reserve keeper Steve Ogrizovic. As a small sideline they check every boot in the place to see if repairs are needed.

Peter Robinson has very little time for lunch. The England-Ireland Under-21 game at Anfield on Wednesday has inflated an already heavy workload, even though the match is not a major event with the general public.

"We have had applications for press tickets from virtually every paper in Britain," said Robinson. "Almost every area has a representative playing in one side or the other. And of course a game like this, in midweek and involving some of the country's finest prospects, attracts an unusually large number of managers and scouts. We have to arrange tickets for all of them."

But Robinson does have time to chuckle over a letter his secretary Miriam Griffiths shows him. A 16-year-old from Ireland has written to chairman John Smith with advice on how to run the team. "You remember, I wrote before and said it was time to sell Emlyn Hughes," he says chattily. "A week later, he had gone, so I'm glad you took my advice then…"

Miriam deals with inquiries from all over the world about Liverpool. There are no juniors to do the typing chores, so she operates the duplicating machines. Today she has run out over 400 letters telling people there is no chance of a League Cup final ticket.

The board meeting starts at 4pm and lasts for three hours. "Some of the matters were fairly routine," said Robinson later, but anything to do with the playing side is gone over very carefully. Bob Paisley always attends board meetings, and he gave a monthly report that took in injuries, performances on the field and those players the club have been watching.

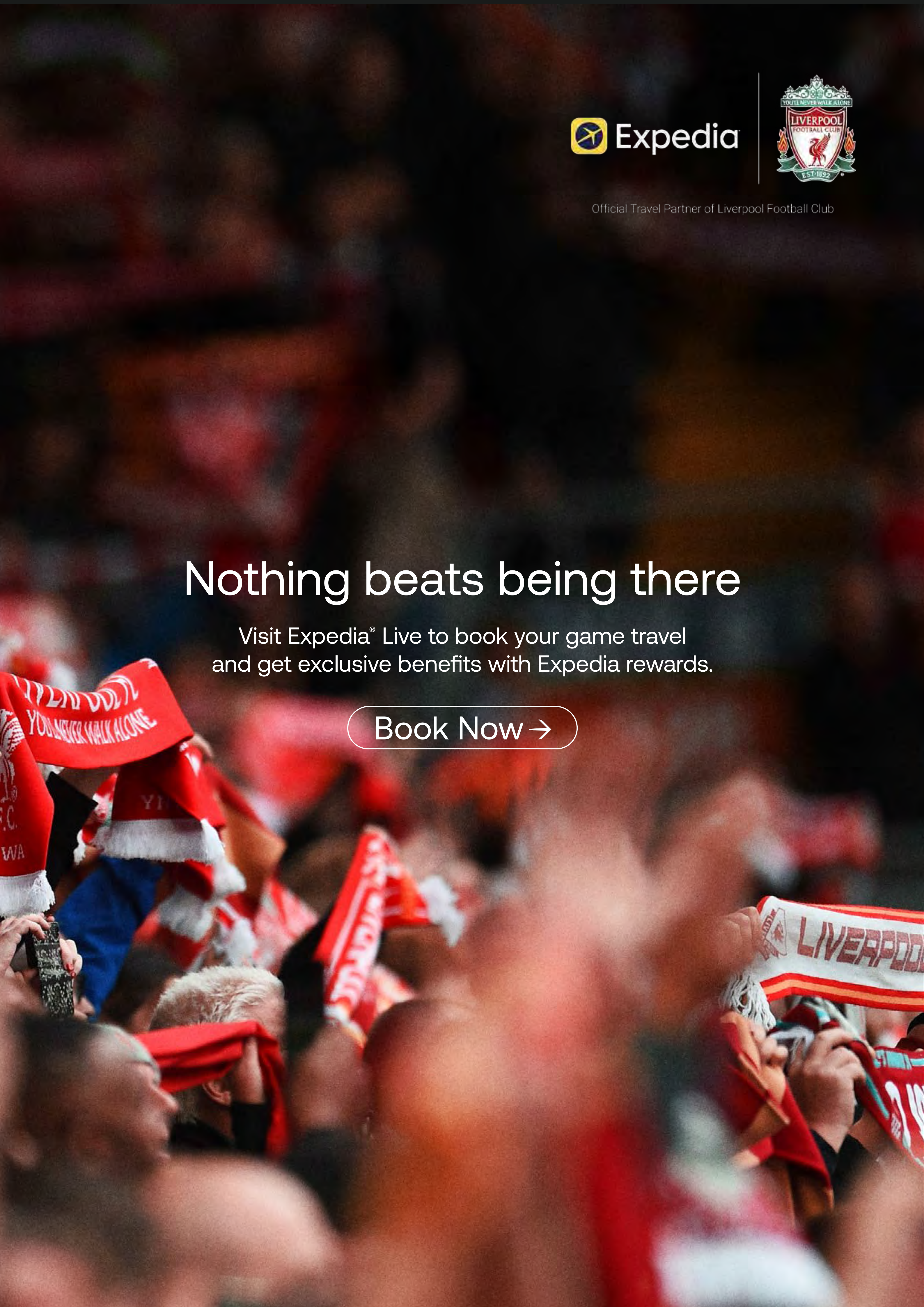
"One player was discussed at length and it was agreed that Tom Saunders and a director should go and watch him the following Saturday."

The board meeting finally winds up shortly after 7pm – but that didn't bring a respite for any of the Anfield troika, chairman Smith, manager Paisley and secretary Robinson.

They go on to a special evening meeting with Liverpool's sponsors, Hitachi, to discuss plans for the League Cup final – and also to have a look ahead to next season.



Miriam Griffiths, secretary to Peter Robinson


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Restaurant staff Phyl, Anne and Vera

"Hitachi have just signed a new contract with us," announces Robinson. "We're happy to say the least, and we need to have preliminary talks to discuss how both parties can get the most out of it.

"Sponsorship involves a certain amount of advertisement, both around the ground and on shirts, and a certain amount of entertainment, though that is fairly routine procedure for us by now. Sometimes the players are involved too, and then we have to arrange detailed talks with them as well."

Elsewhere at Anfield, Bert Johnson is quietly satisfied with a very busy day which has seen his staff clean toilets, terraces, café facilities and private rooms.

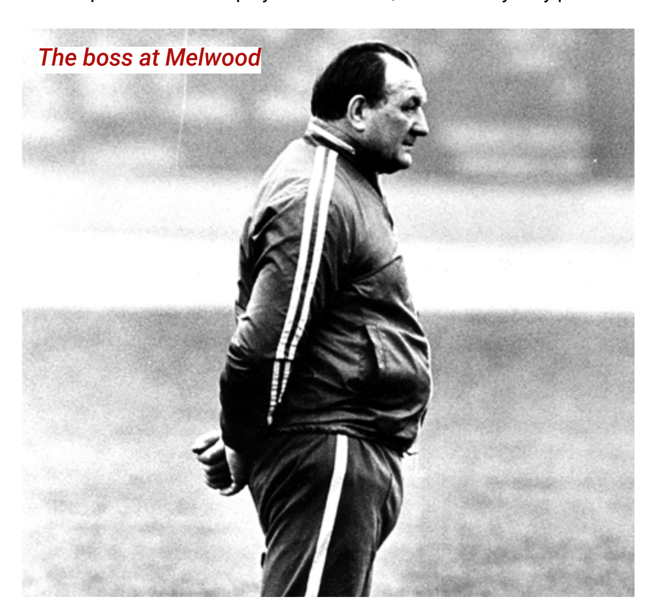
And John Ledson, painter, working in the maintenance shop under the Kemlyn Road stand has completed all the turnstiles signs for the Wembley tickets sale.

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Enter the first-team squad, refreshed after their day off. Fagan and Moran conduct the first major training session of the week at Melwood, with manager Paisley looking on from the sidelines.

The players do some routine running plus a little ball work. Meanwhile, the Irish Under-21 squad are also working out at Melwood in readiness for the international with England at Anfield. "England also wanted to train here, but the Irish asked first," said Paisley.

Liverpool like all their players to eat well, which is why they provide them with a substantial lunch each day. Top of the pops on the players' menu is apple pie and custard.


The boss at Melwood

"That is the big favourite," says catering manager Mrs Anne Olsen. "The girl who cooks apple pie really excels. Once she was off, and another girl baked them, and the players noticed at once!"

"Other favourites," says Anne, "are steak and chicken. Most of the lads have a sweet tooth and they all take sugar with their drinks. It gives them energy."

Anne and her colleague Phyl McCaldon and Vera Bean, turn up for work in the kitchen at 11am. They serve up a three-course lunch with soup, main course and sweet. In the summer, they will vary the diet, with fresh salads and fruit. Anne and the other girls provide around 80 meals a day.

"I've been here nearly ten years so I've got to know all the players," says Anne. "Some cut out potatoes and just eat meat and veg to watch their weight. Others can eat as much as they like without putting on unwanted weight.

"We find the kids from around 16 years of age tend to eat the most – you just can't fill them up. That's because they're still growing. The others tend to pick and choose what they want. But they are very easy people to work with, and very easy going. It's a nice place to work. Some days we have a lot of laughs and jokes, and it's a happy atmosphere.

"We have a different meal every day and it's basically homely food like soup, steak, chicken, gammon, beef, lamb, fish. The lads help themselves – it's not like a formal restaurant in that way. Sometimes they play practical jokes on each other like putting pepper on bread rolls and sugar in the soup when their backs are turned."

Anne also prepares food for matchdays, so she will be back at Anfield at 5.30pm tomorrow to prepare snacks – pies, hot savouries, sandwiches – for the directors and guests and the players' lounge. There is a team of seven on matchdays and they work till 10.30pm. And, of course, they provide the pots of tea in the players' dressing rooms at half-time – big pots containing about four or five pints. "It's milky, sweet tea to give them energy," explains Anne.

The reserves have a game at Preston and set off by coach from Anfield at 5pm accompanied by Roy Evans and director Sydney Moss. For Hansen and Alan Kennedy this could be the game which decides if they are fit enough to return to the first team at the weekend.

"It was a bad result because we lost 1-0 – but from the point of view of the two players it went well," says Roy Evans.

The squad is back at Anfield at 10.30pm and after unloading the skip containing the kit it's straight home. On the way back from Preston, Evans notices how cold the night has become. During the match he was too involved to shiver. Now he wonders what the Anfield pitch will be like for tomorrow's international.

Bert Johnson has been two steps ahead of him. Weather forecast: frost. Switch on undersoil heating. Adjust temperature: surface will be perfect. Goodnight.



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For small business, everyday is matchday

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WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

The flags have arrived for tonight's match! There is an FA flag and FA of Ireland flag and Liverpool's own flag all beautifully cleaned by Porter Brothers, the Liverpool firm, the world's major flagmakers.

The staff are giving Anfield the once-over. Change signs over turnstiles.

Cash boxes to be made up and security boxes prepared for collection and removal of cash. Arrange trophy room for sponsors' dinner – 70 people. Mark out pitch by ground staff. General clean-up. Electrical check to ensure everything is working. Run emergency generator at rear of Kop for one-and-a-half hours so that they can run emergency lighting to evacuate stand [if needed] – but it won't work. Floodlights.

Upstairs, Peter Robinson is wrestling with the problems of long-distance negotiations over a player Liverpool have been trying to sign for several months, Canada-based goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

"One major problem is the question of a work permit, and though this still hasn't come through, developments are expected shortly," says Robinson. "I suppose I've been on the phone for about two to three hours about him in all. I'd hate to say how much time I spend in telephone conversations over a week."

Meanwhile, life goes on for the Liverpool squad at Melwood – a two-hour training stint for the players, including a five-a-side game and a conditions game. Roy Evans reports that Hansen and Kennedy have come through last night's reserve game satisfactorily, but defender Alan Harper has taken a knock on the knee and needs treatment.

At 5pm the gatemen, stilemen and stewards arrive to open up for the international, also the police and café people. What has been a nice quiet little place becomes bedlam.

Bert Johnson mans the gate totaliser in his role of Safety Officer, working in conjunction with police. He will check on flow through the turnstiles. Each section has its own closing figure. An alarm bell sounds when the figure is reached and the gate is then closed. Chief Superintendent John Carroll is the policeman usually in attendance. Not that any sections need closing tonight.

The gate was small, the game uneventful, but the VIP's were there in scores – managers, scouts, pressmen from all over England and Ireland. The hospitality on these occasions is lavish. There's a dinner involving officials of the FA and the FA of Ireland, and another gathering afterwards.

Because it was a matchday, Bob O'Neill only showed visitors around Anfield in the morning. The average tour lasts about three quarters of an hour, and takes in the boardroom, the players' lounge and the pitch, as well as the trophy room.

"The part they like most is standing under the sign which reads 'This is Anfield', says Bob. "It's amazing how many people have heard of this."

As ever, the ground staff are the last to leave. They have repaired the pitch and put the undersoil heating back on. It is 11.15pm.

DON'T MISS PART TWO NEXT ISSUE!


Reserve-team coach Roy Evans with the Central League trophy


IN THE MOOD ...FOR KEEGAN AND SAINTS!

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Stadium tour guide Bob O'Neill

“IF YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD, YOU’VE GOT TO PLAY WITH THE BEST”

That’s why attacking ace Fabio Carvalho came to Liverpool and this, in his own words, is his footballing story so far




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FABIO, DO YOU STILL FEEL PORTUGUESE OR MORE AND MORE BRITISH NOW?

Portuguese. I was close to opting to play for England at one stage but going back to Portugal every year, that just feels like home.

When I was playing for England [Under-16s, 17s and 18s] I didn't really go back to Portugal as much, so I was kind of used to just being around my team-mates from Fulham and most of them were part of the England set-up too.

I just find it easier when I do go back to Portugal. As I say, it feels like home again.

THAT FULHAM SET-UP HAS ALSO DEVELOPED HARVEY ELLIOTT, RYAN SESSEGNON AND MOUSA DEMBELE, TO NAME BUT THREE – THERE HAVE BEEN SOME TALENTS COMING THROUGH THE RANKS THERE?

Yes and there's many more to come as well, I'm sure. I think the training we did when we were younger was good. It was more technical. They don't really look for big players but rather more technical players and then try to develop that technique.

ALEKSANDR MITROVIC SCORED 43 GOALS IN 44 LEAGUE APPEARANCES LAST SEASON – IS IT POSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE WHAT HE WAS LIKE?

I don't think you can give him too much praise, to be fair. As you say, 43 goals in 44 games is crazy. And he's very humble as well so that just goes on top of it.

He was scoring all the goals but in training he was just giving it his all too. He helped me so much. Honestly, because I was playing very close to him – I was playing just behind him as a no10 – our partnership and our chemistry just grew over the season.

And even when I first broke into the first-team I remember him giving me some advice. He said: 'Ninety per cent of the goals I score is because my first touch takes me to that kind of position where I can finish.' He knew he was good at finishing and understood that as long as he had a good first touch there was a good chance it was going to go in.

He's an amazing person and I'm proud of him and happy at how well he has been doing.

ONE OF THE BEST PIECES OF ADVICE WAS WHEN I WAS COMING THROUGH THE ACADEMY AT FULHAM. I DIDN'T REALLY SCORE MANY GOALS AND ONE OF THE ACADEMY MANAGERS TOLD ME TO PASS THE BALL PAST THE KEEPER AND INTO THE NET. HE SAID, 'YOU DON'T HAVE TO BLAST IT – AS LONG AS IT GETS PAST THE KEEPER, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS'





WHAT WAS HE LIKE IN TRAINING?

He just wanted to win. The way you see him in games where he just gives it his all and he might come across as angry and annoyed – that's how he is in training too, and I feel like if you want to be a winner that's how you have to be.

I'd probably say the work he put in off the pitch helped him to achieve what he did last season and the way he has started this season too. I know he was doing a lot of stuff off the pitch because as we know – and he won't mind me saying this – the last season he had in the Premier League wasn't the best for him and he knew he had a point to prove. He did that last year and he's doing it now.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST FOOTBALL-RELATED PIECE OF ADVICE THAT HAS STUCK WITH YOU?

I've got two. The first one was when I was coming through the academy at Fulham. I didn't really score many goals coming up and one of the academy managers at the time, Lee Hagger, told me to pass the ball past the keeper and into the net. He said: 'You don't have to blast it and as long as it gets past the keeper, that's all that matters'.

Another one that stuck with me came from one of the Fulham players. I can't remember who actually said it. It might have been the captain last year [Tom Cairney]. He said: 'Don't let the highs get too high and then the lows take you back too low, so keep your head level'. That's probably one of the best pieces of advice I've ever got.





YOUR DAD VICTOR STILL GIVES YOU A LOT OF ADVICE TOO…

Yes, he just gives me daily wisdom and my brother helps me a lot too. With football, they'll watch the games and then they'll just tell me what I can do and what I can improve on. That kind of advice.

I'd probably say it's more football-related, such as 'Just remember to be in this position' or 'If you want to score goals, make sure that you get in the box because the higher up the pitch you are, the closer you are to the goal and the more goals you can get'. I'd probably say it's more that kind of thing.

AND IN TERMS OF POST-MATCH, WHAT SORT OF THINGS WOULD YOU TALK THROUGH WITH YOUR DAD?

We'll watch the game back because he tries to come to every match. When he watches the game he tends to just watch me and my movement. My reaction off the ball, especially if I lose the ball, is really important, especially at Liverpool. He's really on me in regards to that!

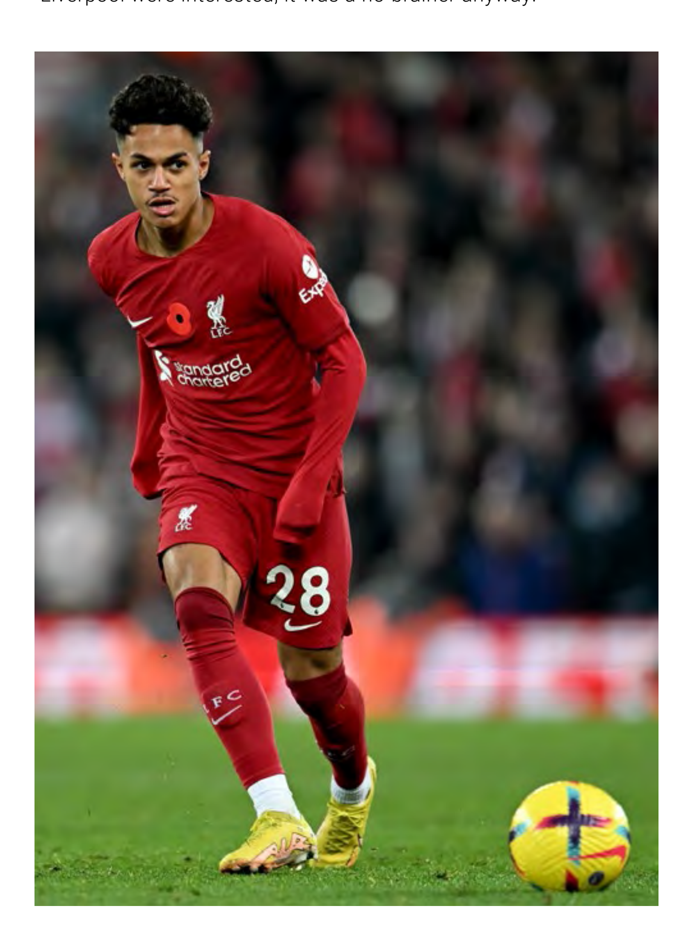
WHAT WAS THE BEST ADVICE YOU WERE GIVEN WHEN IT CAME TO JOINING FULHAM?

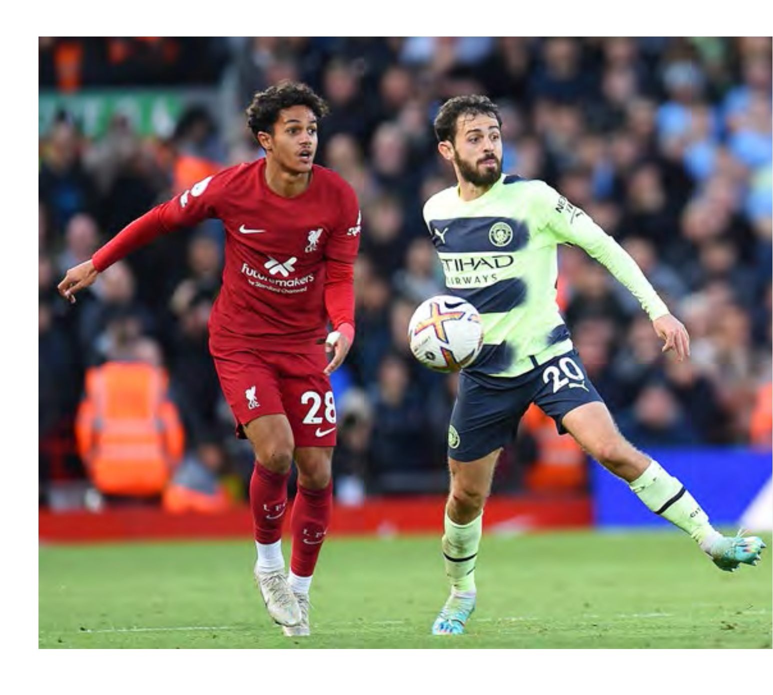
You know what, one of the main reasons why I joined Fulham wasn't even to do with football. They offered a schooling programme which my mum really liked because I was going on trials at different clubs and no-one else was really providing that.

Fulham was one of the first teams that actually got the school side involved with football. So when my mum found out, she said yes because I could focus on football and focus on school which was obviously the most important.

WHAT ABOUT WHEN IT CAME TO THINKING ABOUT MOVING ON FROM FULHAM AND COMING HERE TO LIVERPOOL?

That was my brother! He said: 'If you want to be the best in the world then you've got to play with the best'. When I heard Liverpool were interested, it was a no-brainer anyway.





WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU FIRST CAME OVER HERE FROM PORTUGAL – CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY ADVICE WHEN YOU WERE LEAVING?

No, not really because we just left all of a sudden. It wasn't really like, oh we'll be leaving in a couple of weeks. One week my mum said, 'We'll be leaving soon', so it was all of a sudden in that way.

When I got here, I was told by family members that it would get easier over time because at first it was a bit difficult because I didn't know the language and I didn't know anyone. But they just said it would get easier as long as I kept working hard and I kept training by myself. They said: 'Keep at it and things will happen'.

AND WHAT ABOUT ANY ADVICE YOU'D GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO MAY BE AT THE STAGE YOU WERE SIX OR SEVEN YEARS AGO?

I think the main thing I'd say is keep enjoying your football and don't take anything for granted. Anything can happen injury-wise or you never know what can happen, so wake up every day, thank God, and just go on with your day and keep working hard.

HOW BIG A DIFFERENCE IS IT COMING FROM A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM TO ONE OF THE BEST TEAMS ON THE PLANET?

Obviously everyone knows Liverpool is one of the best teams in the world and they've got some of the best players in the world, but Fulham also have great players as well and they've helped me get here. So there's a difference but it is what it is and I have been trying to learn and adapt as quickly as possible.

YOU TALK ABOUT GREAT PLAYERS. IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO HAS SURPRISED YOU AND YOU'VE THOUGHT: WOW, HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN I REALISED…

Who can I say? Thiago. He's class and I just love the way he plays football. He's always one step ahead. He's got good experience as he's played everywhere.

He's a leader as well. He doesn't really shout, he encourages a lot which is something I like because there's a lot of people who try to lead with shouting and it doesn't work with certain players; whereas if you encourage them to get them along with you, that can help and that's what he does really well.

I'd say [Luis] Diaz had really surprised me as well – he's different class too.







THIAGO IS CLASS AND I JUST LOVE THE WAY HE PLAYS FOOTBALL. HE'S ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD ON THE PITCH, HE'S PLAYED EVERYWHERE AND HE'S A LEADER AS WELL



IT'S SO HARD TO SCORE AGAINST ALISSON! AS WELL AS HIS SHOT-STOPPING IT'S HIS PLAYING OUT TOO, JUST HOW CALM AND COMPOSED HE IS ON THE BALL. IT JUST GIVES US A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AND HE CALMS IT DOWN FOR US

ALISSON BECKER IS AT THE WORLD CUP WITH BRAZIL. IN YOUR OPINION WHAT ARE HIS BEST QUALITIES AS A GOALKEEPER?

His shot-stopping. It's so hard to score against him! I'd say his playing out too, just how calm and composed he is on the ball. It just gives us a breath of fresh air when he has the ball and he calms it down.

Like we saw with his assist for Mo's goal against Man City, his long passing is crazy too. I think I could talk about his qualities all day but I'd probably say those are his main ones.

AND WHAT ABOUT HIM AS A PERSON?

He's honestly one of the best. I'm not just saying this because you've asked me! We talk a lot about Christianity and our religion so that helps a lot. He's taught me a lot, to be fair. He's just a nice guy, easy going and he has a bit of banter!

HOW DO FORMATION CHANGES AFFECT YOU AS A PLAYER?

It does and it doesn't because as long as I'm playing, I kind of know what to do, as in where to be and how to play.

With a 4-4-2 we have to press in a different way but that's because of how the manager and the analysts are telling us what to do. As long as they give us the information, we're able to go on the pitch and perform.

That system can be fluid because we often have Bobby who is behind either Mo or Darwin, and he can come into the pocket. Then you have the two wingers who also come in and it's fluid because everyone keeps moving. It's good and I like it.

My preferred position is either on the left-hand side or maybe in the middle of the park as a no10, but we don't really play with a 10 here. To be honest, as long as I'm playing and am able to try and help the team, that's all that matters to me.

WHO WERE YOUR FOOTBALLING IDOLS OR HEROES GROWING UP?

In general terms I always say my brother because he's taught me everything I know. Footballing-wise Ronaldinho because I watched a lot of clips of him and I still do to this day before games. Just the way he played football was crazy.

MO SALAH IS CLOSING IN ON SEVERAL GOALSCORING RECORDS FOR LIVERPOOL – IS HE THE BEST AFRICAN PLAYER THAT YOU'VE PLAYED WITH, AND WHO'S THE BEST YOU'VE PLAYED AGAINST?

Obviously in terms of those I've played with it's Mo. I don't need to say too much more! It's easy to say him because he's just the king isn't he?!

In terms of people I've played against, I'd say Riyad Mahrez. I think he's a very good player, very silky and his first touch is incredible.

WHO IS THE ONE AFRICAN PLAYER THAT YOU WISH YOU COULD HAVE PLAYED ALONGSIDE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?

That's a good question. I think I'd have to say Yaya Toure because when he was in the Prem, he was just dominant. With him playing as a no8 and me as a no10, I think we'd dominate games, so I'll have to say him!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MANAGER?

What you see on TV is what you get in real life. He's a kind of father figure. He helps everyone and just wants the team to succeed. That's the most important thing. You can see when I play or I'm coming on, he gives me a hug – and that's not just the way he is with me, it's the whole squad.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE AWAY STADIUM TO PLAY AT IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?

So far the one I've liked playing at the most is Old Trafford because of how hostile they try to make it and the games between the teams are always good although we came out on the wrong end of the scoreline that day.

In terms of the one I'm looking forward to I'd say Newcastle because I know the atmosphere there is crazy.

GOLDEN BOY TOP 20

Fabio was shortlisted for the final 20 of the European Golden Boy award as voted for by journalists from various leading newspapers on the Continent.

Barcelona midfielder Gavi won the accolade, following in the footsteps of previous winners such as Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero, Raheem Sterling, Kylian Mbappe, Joao Felix and Erling Haaland. Fabio's good friend and team-mate Harvey Elliott reached the final 40 in this year's voting too.

"I feel good about getting that far but I'm only focused on what happens on the pitch," says Carvalho. "Whatever happens off the pitch, happens off the pitch, but I'm just trying to win games for Liverpool."



QUIZ

THE HOT 120

A whole game plus extra-time of questions to occupy you between now and the return of the Reds, inspired by the matchday programme's fiendish quiz page

WELL RED

1 What's the missing word in this quote from Pep Lijnders' book *Intensity*: 'A good team solves problems, a top team ____ them'?

2 Which hugely influential member of the LFC backroom staff is the author of *A Taste Of The Liverpool Way: A Recipe for Success*?

3 And which legendary former Boot Room member is the subject of a book called *Mr Liverpool*?

4 Subtitled *The Alternative History*, which official book has been revised and updated to celebrate a club anniversary this year?

5 Fill in another missing word from the Pep book: 'Our training is our ____ – it just moves us in the right direction'...

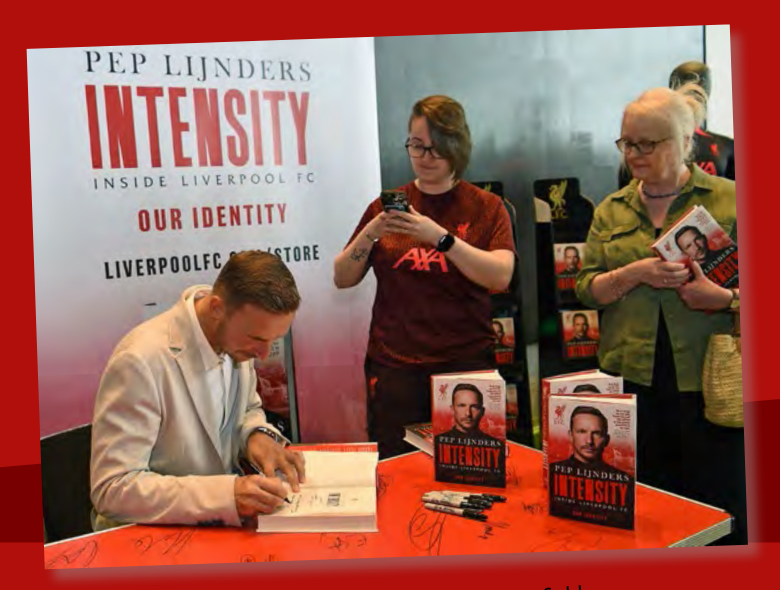
6 What was the title of Reds left-back Andy Robertson's bestselling autobiography released in 2020?

7 Which Liverpool legend's 2016 autobiography was entitled *5 League Titles and a Packet of Crisps*?

8 Complete the title of the book published earlier this year which transforms over 100 stunning photographs: *Old Liverpool FC in* ____ ?

9 Jürgen Klopp, Jordan Henderson and which ex-Reds boss are the subjects of three best-selling official club books entitled *Notes on a Season*?

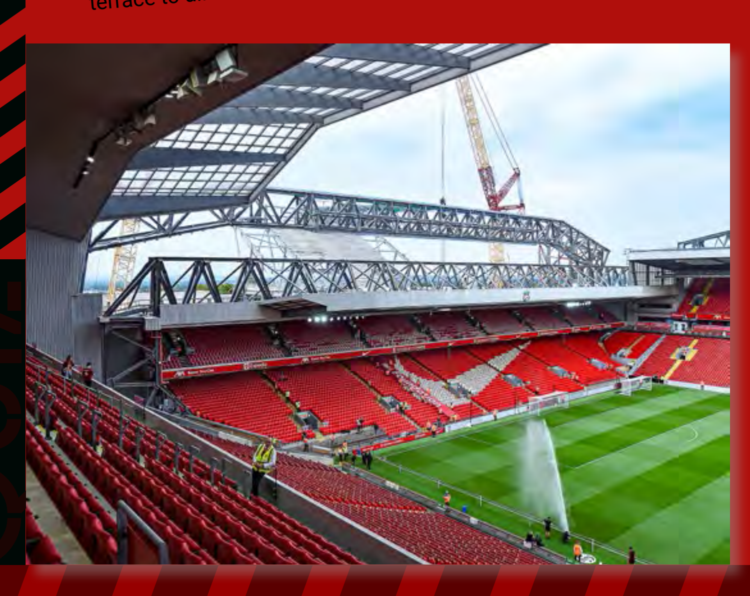
10 And a final one to fill from Pep's brilliant book: 'Coaches who want to control everything can only be stopped by creating ____'...



AROUND THE GROUND

11 When the Anfield Road stand expansion is completed for next season, what will be the ground's overall capacity?

12 In what year did the Anfield Road end change from standing terrace to all-seater: (a) 1978 (b) 1980 (c) 1982?



13 In September 2016 the Reds beat which team as Anfield celebrated the official opening of the expanded Main Stand?

14 The Spion Kop is named after the site of a Boer War battle in southern Africa from which year: (a) 1890 (b) 1900 (c) 1910?

15 In 2020 a bronze statue was installed at the stadium of Bob Paisley carrying which legendary player on his back?

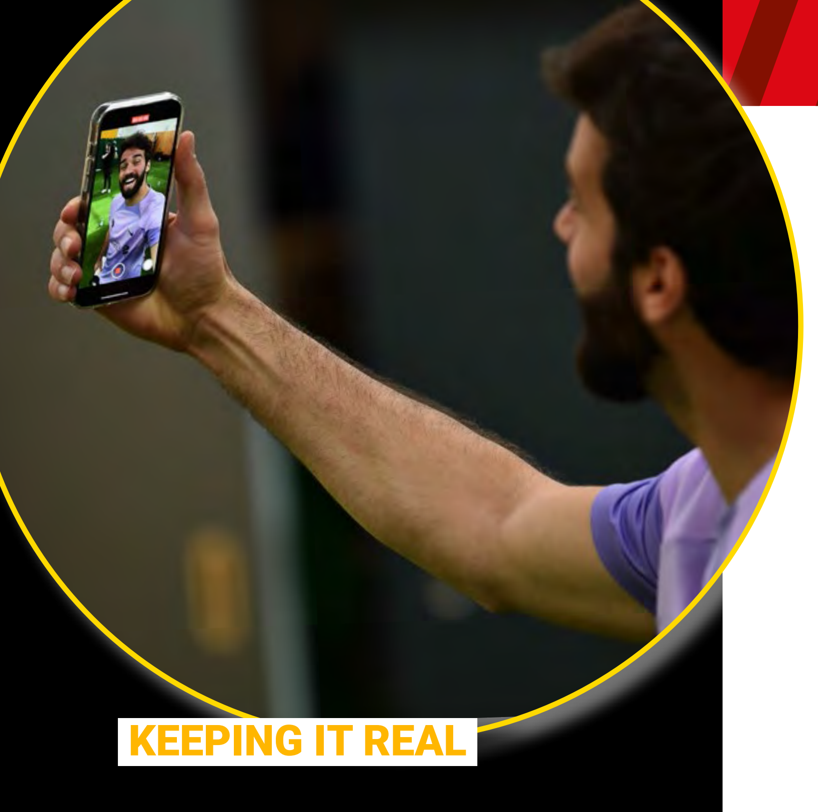
16 What are the two most recent former names of what is now known as the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand?

17 In which year was the statue of Bill Shankly unveiled outside the new, all-seater Kop grandstand?

18 What was first installed at Anfield back in 1957?

19 Fill in the blanks to this Beatles-inspired classic: 'On a Saturday afternoon, We support a team called Liverpool, And we ____ until we ____, On our famous Spion Kop!'

20 Finally, can you name the seven Liverpool FC greats honoured with granite benches among the 'Anfield Forever' stones outside the Main Stand?



KEEPING IT REAL

quiz

RETURN TO ISTANBUL

31 The Reds have played three Champions League matches at the Ataturk Stadium: in May 2005 against AC Milan and in December 2006 and February 2015 against which teams?

32 Who were the opposition, what was the major occasion and where was the venue for Liverpool's last trip to the city of Istanbul?

33 In how many different countries have Liverpool appeared in a European Cup/Champions League final?

34 Is the Ataturk Stadium located to the east or west of the Bosphorus, the strait which separates Istanbul's European and Asian sections?

35 For what purpose was the Ataturk Stadium originally built?

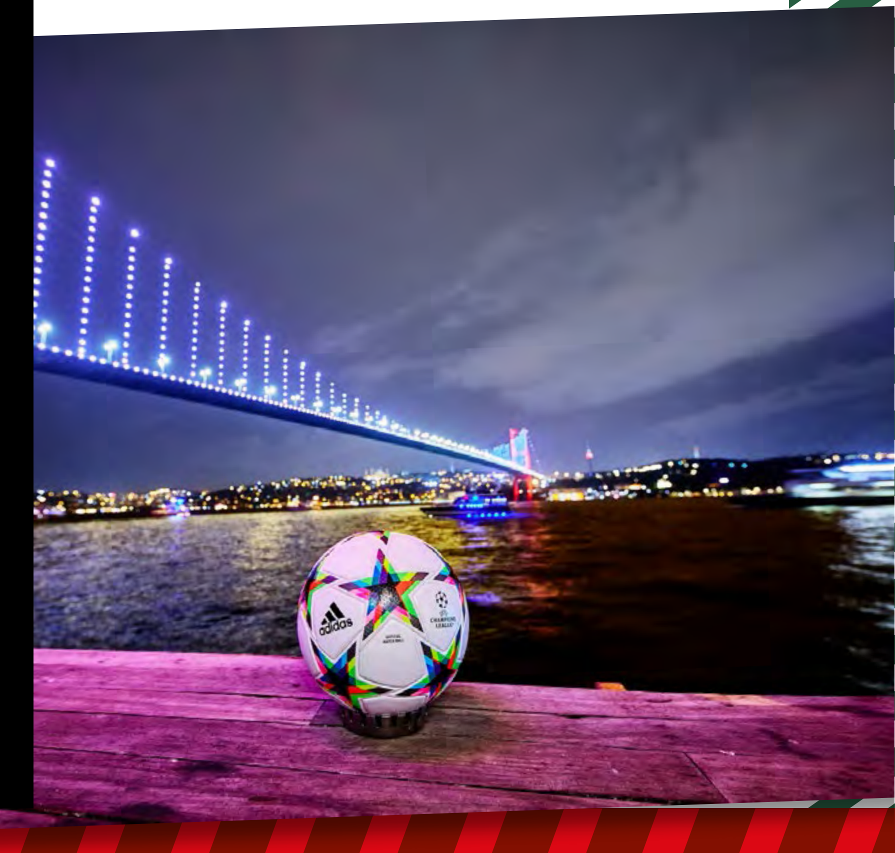
36 True or false: the Ataturk was scheduled to stage both the 2020 and 2021 UCL finals but because of COVID-19 they were moved to Portugal and Spain respectively…

37 Where are the 2024 and 2025 Champions League finals scheduled to be held?

38 What was the name of the Spanish referee for the 2005 Champions League final: (a) Manuel Mejuto Gonzalez; (b) Oscar Martinez Samaniego; (c) Clemente Ayete Plou?

39 What was the name of the 2014 comedy film about two Liverpool cabbies who take their sons to the 2005 final?

40 In 2010 which rock band gave a sold-out concert at the Ataturk Stadium as part of their 360° tour?



QUIZ

GET WITH THE PROGRAMME

41 Darwin Nunez was on the cover of 2022/23's first LFC matchday programme, followed by which two Reds players for the Bournemouth and Newcastle United games?

42 What did the Liverpool FC matchday programme used to be called from season 1969/70 through to 1999/2000?

43 An opera stage then a submarine were on the cover of two of our UEFA Champions League issues last season – who were the respective opponents?

44 Reds fan Andy Marsden recently published a huge, definitive guide to Liverpool FC programmes consisting of how many pages in total: (a) 594 (b) 784 (c) 984?

45 True or false: for one season at the turn of the millennium the matchday programme was a larger A4 size?

46 The first-ever Liverpool FC programme to be published was for the visit of which team on 1 September 1892?

47 Which came first in the LFC matchday programme: Jürgen Klopp's first manager's notes or Jordan Henderson's first captain's column?

48 What was on the cover for the Champions League semi-final second leg v Barcelona in May 2019?

49 What's the name of the current regular feature in this season's matchday programme about football all over the world?

50 Not including friendlies, for how many Liverpool FC fixtures was there a matchday programme last season: (a) 29 (b) 30 (c) 31?



OFF THE WALL

51 Can you name the five current Reds attackers who feature on the murals along the Anfield Road expansion site which have been officially created by street-art company MurWalls for the club?

52 Last May all-time top LFC scorer Ian Rush was commemorated by a striking artwork opposite the Main Stand at Anfield, but how many goals did he get for Liverpool: (a) 286 (b) 316 (c) 346?

53 What is the name of the street-artist who created the Trent Alexander-Arnold mural near the stadium, in association with The Anfield Rap, back in 2019?

54 Reds supporter John Culshaw was the artist behind the mural of Bill Shankly on the wall of which famous pub on Walton Breck Road opposite the Spion Kop?

55 Which two legendary Liverpool forwards are honoured close to the Trent and Jordan Henderson murals on Sybil Road in Anfield?

56 Who gave his official approval in person to a brilliant mural – also featuring fellow European Cup-winner Steven Gerrard – on Anfield's Dinorwic Road?

57 A mural of former goalkeeper Ray Clemence on Wylva Road



was unveiled by members of his family in October 2020 – when did Clem originally sign for LFC: (a) 1965 (b) 1967 (c) 1969?

58 What's the line from the Kop song which accompanies the new Jürgen Klopp mural by local artist Humor on Anfield's Randolph Street, a collaboration between MurWalls and BOSS Night?

59 Local artist Paul Curtis created the mural on Sunbury Road dedicated to Hillsborough campaigner Anne Williams – who played Anne in the recent ITV drama?

60 Finally, can you name the nine former Reds strikers who also feature on those latest murals along the Anfield Road development site?

QUIZ

WALK ON

61 The Spion Kop memorial for *YNWA* singer Gerry Marsden was officially unveiled by his wife Pauline ahead of which fixture in the Premier League last season?

62 On the bronze memorial above Gerry is depicted wearing a Liverpool Football Club tie gifted to him by whom?

63 In which year was the song originally recorded and released by Gerry and his band The Pacemakers on Columbia Records, reaching number one in the UK charts?

64 What was the name of the resident disc jockey who first played the record at Anfield and "could not believe the reaction from the crowd"?

65 On a recent episode of the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* in Sefton Park's Palm House, a commemorative silver disc of YNWA was valued at: (a) £2,000 (b) £4,000 (c) £8,000?

66 As well those of Celtic north of the border, supporters from which German club have adopted *You'll Never Walk Alone* as their anthem?

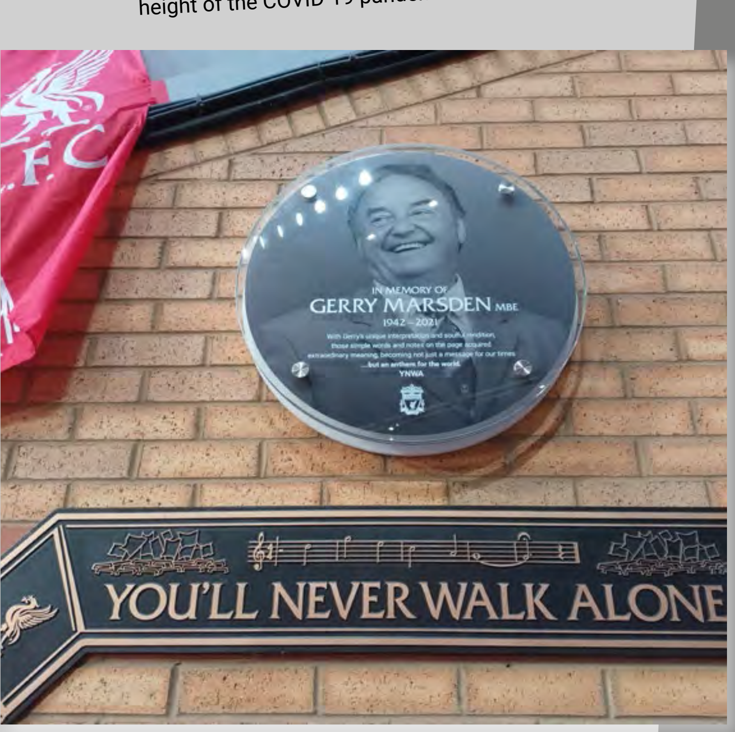
67 Marcus Mumford recorded a cover version of *YNWA* in 2020 for which Apple TV+ sports comedy-drama?

68 Which footballing great once said, "There's not one club in Europe with an anthem like *You'll Never Walk Alone*, there's not one club in the world so united with the fans"?

69 Gerry came out of retirement in 2019 to sing a duet of *You'll Never Walk Alone* at Anfield with the lead singer from which former boy band?

70 And which unlikely duo took *YNWA* back to the top of the UK single charts once more in April 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic?





Z STARS

71 What milestone did Joe Gomez reach in the Premier League game at Arsenal?

72 Against which three Champions League opponents has Luis Diaz scored for Liverpool so far?

73 Last season how many goals did Darwin Nunez score in 28 league games for Benfica: (a) 18 (b) 22 (c) 26?

74 Luis Suarez scored twice for Liverpool against West Ham United at Anfield in December of which year?

75 For which two Spanish clubs had Maxi Rodriguez played before he joined the Reds on a free transfer in Jan 2010?

76 How many goals did ex-Reds attacker Mark Gonzalez score for the Liverpool FC Legends in the two charity games versus Manchester United this year?

77 For which three British clubs did central defender Stephane Henchoz play after leaving Liverpool back in January 2005?

78 The only goal scored by Spanish winger Antonio Nunez for Liverpool came against whom in which showpiece match?

79 Joe Gomez wears the no2 shirt for Liverpool this season but what was his number prior to the 2022/23 campaign?

80 For whom did Luis Diaz provide an assist on his Liverpool FC debut in last season's FA Cup tie against Cardiff City at Anfield?

QUIZ

THE BOSS



81 Six Liverpool managers, including Jürgen Klopp, have enjoyed at least seven unbroken years in charge here – who were the previous five?

82 When Brendan Rodgers was appointed as Reds boss back in August 2012 which fellow manager said, "I want him to be a success, to keep doing things well"?

83 In his second spell in charge Kenny Dalglish signed Luis Suarez and Andy Carroll in the January 2011 transfer window, but who was his first major signing in the close-season that year?

84 Which three English clubs did Roy Hodgson subsequently manage after leaving Liverpool at the start of 2011?

85 "Even after five years with Rafa [Benitez] I still feel I want to please him, that I want to impress him in every game I play. The great managers are like that…" Who said that in September 2009?

86 Which two French youngsters – both recently involved in the LFC Legends v Manchester United Legends match – did Gerard Houllier sign for Liverpool in July 2003 and from which club?

87 In the four full seasons when Roy Evans was sole manager (1994/95 to 1997/98) in which positions did the Reds finish in the Premier League?

88 True or false: Ronnie Moran was LFC caretaker-manager on two separate occasions in consecutive seasons?

89 Joe Fagan was appointed as first-team manager back in July 1983, having originally joined the Liverpool FC coaching staff in which year?

90 Complete this famous quote from Bob Paisley about his predecessor as manager, the great Bill Shankly: "Bill built the house, I just __ __ ___ _"

REFS IN EUROPE

91 True or false: Liverpool's last two UEFA Champions League games against SSC Napoli have been refereed by Carlos del Cerro Grande, an official from Spain?

92 Cuneyt Cakir of Turkey was the referee for two of the most memorable European nights at Anfield in recent, Jürgen Klopp-era years – which ones were they?

93 What was the nationality of the referee who sent off Atletico Madrid's Felipe at Anfield and Villarreal's Etienne Capoue in El Madrigal, also against Liverpool, both last season?

94 Damir Skomina of Slovenia, the ref for the 2019 Champions League final between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur, went on to officiate in Barcelona's heaviest defeat in 69 years – to which team?

95 In this season's group game at home to Napoli, whose 'goal' for the visitors was ruled out by German ref Tobias Stieler after a VAR check?

96 Herbert Fandel of Germany, the ref for the 2007 final against AC Milan in Athens, sent off which Liverpool player against Rafa Benitez's Valencia in a Champions League match 20 years ago?

97 Against which side in the 2019/20 group stage did the Reds have an 89th-minute winner by Takumi Minamino disallowed by French referee Francois Letexier after a VAR consultation?

98 Felix Brych of Germany was the man in the middle for which two massive – and consecutive – Anfield home games in the 2017/18 edition of the tournament?

99 In the now-legendary second leg of the semi-final with Chelsea at Anfield in May 2005, how many minutes of stoppage-time did Slovakian referee Lubos Michel add on?

100 True or false: Liverpool's two Champions League finals against Real Madrid in 2022 and 2018 were refereed by the same official from France?



QUIZ

CARABAO WOW



EXTRA TIME

111 Who scored the goals in the 9-0 win over Bournemouth at Anfield in the Premier League on Saturday 27 August?

112 When the Reds welcomed Brighton & Hove Albion to Anfield on Saturday 1 October how many days had it been since Liverpool's last Premier League fixture?

113 Mo Salah scored the all-important winner in the big game against Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday 16 October – but which record had he just set four days earlier?

114 After Alisson provided the assist for Mo's goal against Man City, whose penalty did he save at Anfield three days later?

115 The last-gasp defeat to Leeds United on Saturday 29 October spelt the end of Virgil van Dijk's unbeaten home run in the Premier League with Liverpool – how many games had it been until he'd experienced defeat?

116 Who made his Reds senior debut in the Champions League win over Napoli at Anfield on Tuesday 1 November?

117 Against which two teams has Darwin Nunez provided an assist for Mo Salah so far this season?

118 The Carabao Cup third-round victory over Derby County made it four penalty shoot-out wins in the competition for goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher – against whom were the previous three?



119 Teenage winger Ben Doak, who made his debut in the Carabao Cup tie with Derby, was signed from which club?

120 Jürgen Klopp was officially awarded the Freedom of the City of Liverpool at the start of November, joining which two previous Reds managers in receiving the city's highest civic honour?

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Quiz

WELL RED:

AROUND THE GROUND:
11. The new capacity will be 61,000; 12. (c) 1982 (although the away corner remained for a while as a standing section); 13. Leicester City; 14. (b) 1900; 15. Emlyn Hughes; 16. Centenary Stand, Kemlyn Road Stand; 17. In 1997; 18. Floodlights; 19. 'On a Saturday afternoon, We support a team called Liverpool, And we sing until we drop, On the famous Spion Kop!'; 20. Elisha Scott, Billy Liddell, Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley, Kenny Dalglish, John Barnes and Steven Gerrard.

KEEPING IT REAL:
21. He was born in Novo Hamburgo and his middle name is Ramses; 22. A towel from his hometown Seville; 23. Harvey Davies; 24. Tranmere Rovers; 25. Ray Clemence (665), Bruce Grobbelaar (628), Elisha Scott (468), Pepe Reina (394) and Tommy Lawrence (390); 26. Chris Kirkland; 27. Steve Staunton against Everton (H) in 1999, and Jose Enrique against Newcastle United (A) in 2012; 28. Scouse musician Jamie Webster; 29. An FA Cup Merseyside derby at Goodison Park in 1967; 30. An octopus.

RETURN TO ISTANBUL:
31. Galatasaray in a 2005/06 Champions League group game and Besiktas in a 2014/15 Europa League round-of-32 second leg; 32. Chelsea in the UEFA Super Cup at Besiktas Park; 33. Eight – Italy (1977, 1984), France (1981, 2022), England (1978), Belgium (1985), Turkey (2005), Greece (2007), Ukraine (2018) and Spain (2019); 34. To the west in the city's Basaksehir district; 35. To support Turkey's bid to stage the 2008 Olympic Games – its full name is actually the Ataturk Olympic Stadium; 36. False – the 2020 final was moved to Lisbon and the 2021 to Porto, both in Portugal; 37. Wembley in 2024 and Munich's Fussball Arena in 2025; 38. (a) Manuel Mejuto Gonzalez – the other two were his assistants; 39. *One Night in Istanbul*; 40. U2.

GET WITH THE PROGRAMME:
41. Harvey Elliott (Bournemouth) and Trent Alexander-Arnold (Newcastle United); 42. It was called 'The Anfield Review'; 43. Inter Milan and Villarreal; 44. (c) 984 pages! 45. False – it was in fact for two seasons, 2000/01 and 2001/02; 46. Rotherham Town for a friendly; 47. Jordan's first captain's column in August 2015, with Jürgen's first manager's notes in October that same season; 48. The Champions League trophy in a colourful mosaic design; 49. 'Different League'; 50. (b) 30 editions in all competitions.

OFF THE WALL:
51. Roberto Firmino, Mohamed Salah, Diogo Jota, Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez; 52. (c) 346; 53. The artist was Akse; 54. The Park; 55. Ian St John and Roger Hunt; 56. Alan Kennedy; 57. (b) 1967; 58. 'Y'know he said so'; 59. Maxine Peake; 60. Ian Rush, Kenny Dalglish, John Aldridge, Dirk Kuyt, Luis Suarez, Fernando Torres, Robbie Fowler, Sadio Mane and Divock Origi.

WALK ON:
61. The Anfield derby against Everton on Sunday 24 April 2022; 62. Bill Shankly; 63. In 1963; 64. Stewart Bateman was the man who spun the discs; 65. (c) £8,000; 66. Borussia Dortmund; 67. Ted Lasso; 68. Johan Cruyff; 69. Take That (Gary Barlow); 70. Michael Ball and Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Z STARS:

THE BOSS:
81. Bob Paisley (1974-83), Bill Shankly (1959-74), George Kay (1936-51), George Patterson (1928-36) and Tom Watson (1896-1915); 82. Jose Mourinho, who'd worked with Rodgers at Chelsea and was at the time managing Real Madrid; 83. Jordan Henderson in June 2011; 84. West Bromwich Albion, Crystal Palace and Watford; 85. Steven Gerrard; 86. Anthony Le Tallec and Florent Sinama-Pongolle from Le Havre; 87. Fourth (1994/95), third (1995/96), fourth (1996/97) and third (1997/98); 88. True – in season 1990/91 after Kenny Dalglish resigned and in 1991/92 while Graeme Souness recovered from heart surgery; 89. Joe originally joined in 1958; 90. "Put the roof on."

REFS IN EUROPE:
91. True – he reffed September's group game in Naples and the 1-1 draw at Anfield in November 2019; 92. The Champions League semi-final second leg against Barcelona, and the Europa League quarter-final second leg v Borussia Dortmund; 93. Dutch – it was Danny Makkelie; 94. Bayern Munich in the UCL quarter-final of August 2020 – because of COVID it was a one-off tie behind-closed-doors in Lisbon and finished 8-2 to the Germans; 95. Defender Leo Ostigard; 96. Dietmar Hamann in September 2002 in a 2-0 away defeat for LFC; 97. FC Midtjylland – it finished 1-1 after the hosts equalised with a VAR-awarded penalty following Mo Salah's opener after 55 seconds; 98. The quarter-final first leg with Manchester City and the semi-final first leg against AS Roma; 99. Six minutes; 100. False – Clement Turpin of France refereed last season's final and was a fourth official in 2018 when Milorad Mazic of Serbia was the man in the middle.

CARABAO WOW:
101. Bob Paisley (1981, 1982 and 1983), Joe Fagan (1984), Roy Evans (1995), Gerard Houllier (2001, 2003), Kenny Dalglish (2012) and Jürgen Klopp (2022); 102. Robbie Fowler; 103. (b) Virgil van Dijk; 104. False – the Reds have lost once in normal time at Wembley, to Arsenal in 1987, having lost to Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford in the 1978 replay, to Chelsea in Cardiff in 2005, and to Man City at Wembley in 2016 after extra-time and a penalty shoot-out; 105. In the 118th minute; 106. Birmingham City (beat Arsenal) in 2011 and Swansea City (beat Bradford City) in 2013; 107. Harvey Elliott; 108. Ragnar Klavan; 109. Southampton away in the quarter-finals and Lincoln City away in the third round; 110. Capital One from 2012/13 to 2015/16.

EXTRA TIME:



CULT CLASSICS

Words: Rhys Buchanan / Fan photos: Dave Hewitson

While there's a pause on the Anfield pitch why not get down to the city's Walker Art Gallery for an entertaining and educational celebration of the Liverpool fan fashion which still sets the trend



“We came home from Paris delighted, we’d just won the European Cup and we all had a brand new pair of trainees,” recalls Dave Hewitson, co-curator of *Art of the Terraces* – a new exhibition at Liverpool’s Walker Art Gallery which happens to be the first of its kind to combine fashion, football and art. It’s a pioneering collection which documents the enduring impact of what became known as ‘Casual’ culture among working-class match-goers in the late 1970s.

Hewitson is thinking back to 1981 when the Reds had lifted their third European Cup under Bob Paisley and a fashion sea-change was in full-flow on the terraces. The movement, he explains, stemmed from a sense of one-upmanship: “In the late Seventies nobody wore sportswear like training shoes or jackets in the streets, [but] then Liverpool supporters started going into Europe en masse and bringing home all of these brands that weren’t for sale in the UK because of the recession.”



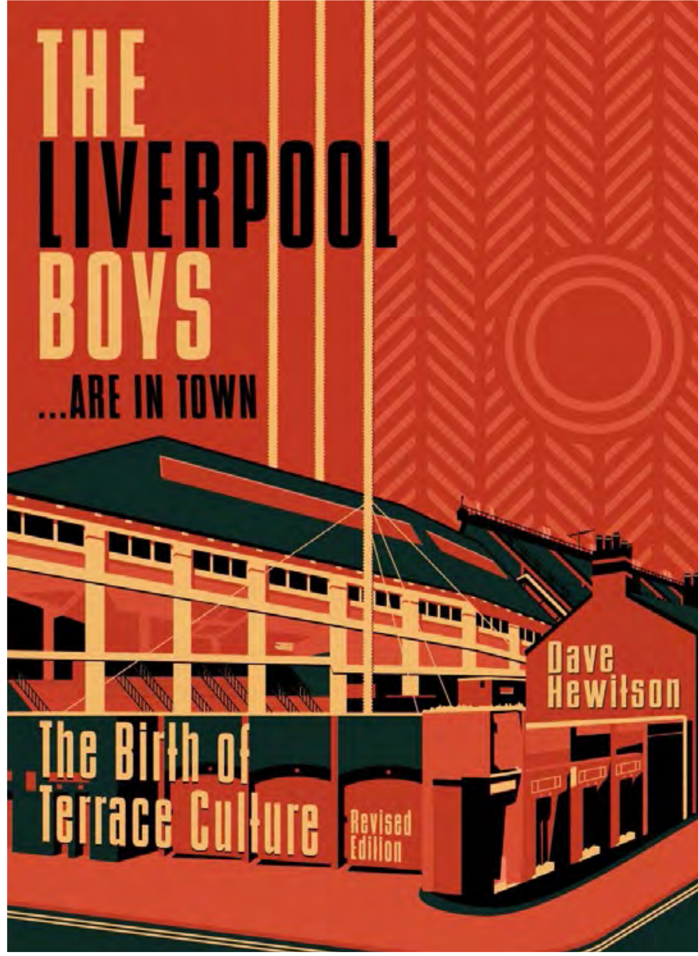


Dave, who'd funded his first foray into Europe in 1977 for the European Cup final in Rome by selling his beloved Raleigh Chopper bicycle, says it became a light through an often dark time. "It's something good that's come out of the era. There's a lot said about those days of football with hooliganism and everything, but there was more to it than that. I wasn't going to the match fighting, I was going for the football and the fashion on the terraces."

With the explosion of punk then post-punk at the time, he says







the trends at the match were already moving away from the clothes you'd have previously seen your dad wearing. "You've got narrow jeans replacing these big flared pants, small collared shirts replacing big acrylic things. It was 'scally' kids dressing the way they wanted to, and it became a fashion catwalk when you went to the match. 'Oh what trainers has he got on there? Where did you get your trainees from, lad?' And the next minute, you needed them."

The exhibition traces the timeline of Casual culture and includes an array of jackets, trainers and photographs from Reds travelling on the Continent in the 1970s and 80s, but Hewitson stresses that the focus is also on the art inspired by the movement in the decades following.

"I see it as a new form of pop art. People are using that era for inspiration and creating these really vibrant paintings, videos, collages, tapestries and sculptures, so we approached it from that point-of-view and the gallery got it immediately."

Writer, journalist and Liverpool fan Kevin Sampson (*Awaydays*, *Anne*) explains how the term came about: "They never called themselves 'Casuals' – that was coined by the London media in the 80s to embrace a cult that had risen up from the streets to dominate high street fashion.

"This emerging scene was mercurial rather than casual, with a certain brand or item being deemed 'in' one week and 'over' the next. The roots of that cult with no name were firmly embedded in Liverpool and, for those first fledgling years of the look, it was very much a Merseyside thing."





He continues: "In an era before the instant news of Instagram, young 'bucks' had to travel far and wide to see what their rivals were wearing – that, along with their monthly fix from magazines like *The Face* and *The End*. But as a new breed emerged, the cult with no name was finally baptised. *The Face* ran a spread about kids in Benetton shirts, Fila BJ jackets, pastel shades of Lacoste and Ellesse, and dubbed them 'Casuals'. The name has stuck – and the scene lives on."

You need look no further than independent Liverpool brands 80s Casuals (owned by Hewitson) and Transalpino to see that the impact of Casual culture is still alive and kicking. The latter is named after the student travel firm which provided many Reds a gateway into Europe to follow their beloved Liverpool FC, often on 'doctored' tickets to take them further.











Store owner Brendan Wyatt believes the idea of being ahead of the curve has never left Liverpool fans: "I'm constantly looking for the next thing, I've found vintage trainers in Asia that have been the only pair known in the world. That buzz of finding something new is still with me, unlike everything being the same on the mainstream high-street stores.

"As a kid I used to go and watch the local wheelers and dealers on the markets – they were my heroes as well as the footballers. I like to think I've picked my determination up from people like that."

As someone who grew up idolising the fashion of his peers on the terraces, Wyatt says the novelty isn't lost on him that you can't go on an 'away day' now without seeing one of his designs. "When I went to Madrid for the 2019 final, everywhere I looked someone had Transalpino on. I felt so proud. I would have never dreamt that Liverpool fans would want to be wearing a fashion item that I'd designed at the match."

Growing up, local singer-songwriter Kieran Molyneux – aka Kieo – says that the brand was something he had to have. "When I first started going to watch Liverpool home and away, there was a big attachment to what you wore.

"You look up to these match-goers who have seen things that you haven't – they've seen Liverpool lift trophies, the good times and bad. I was straight into Transalpino, wanting to fit in, I needed three stripes, a proper coat, and a decent pair of jeans."

He believes it's less of a conscious thing these days, but that Scousers still hold their own vivid identity. "Liverpool's match-going lads still stand out wherever we go and there's a reason for that. We don't pick and choose what becomes fashionable, it just happens.

"Now at the match I see quality designerwear. Valentino is massive, Missoni is probably the biggest brand in the city on a Saturday night in town. You'll see the rest of the country follow suit in the next five years.

"It's always evolving," he concludes. "It started off with Casual culture then more recently it's evolved into technical outdoor wear, then high-tag stuff and there will be something next. It comes down to wanting something that was never meant for working-class Scousers."

• ***Art Of The Terraces is open now at Walker Art Gallery and runs until 12 March 2023.***



THE DOC

Remembering the local lad whose Liverpool FC dream came true, even though he once scored for the Blues against the Reds in a Merseyside derby!

Words: Chris McLoughlin

“Touched on for David Johnson….ohhhh, that’s the Championship.” Anfield, May 1980. A moment in time and perhaps the moment that David Johnson is best remembered for.

Bob Paisley’s Liverpool beat Aston Villa 4-1 on the final day of the season and it was ‘Johnno’ who scored the first and third goals to ensure the Football League trophy would be sporting red ribbons.

His second goal, described above by John Motson for BBC *Match of the Day*, was Johnson’s 27th of the season and one of 78 he scored for Liverpool during a 213-game career that ran from August 1976 to August 1982.

As he put it himself, “To score in front of the Kop, to hear them shout your name…it just fulfilled all my childhood dreams.”

Born under a Liver Bird on 23 October 1951, into a family of Reds, he used to stand on the Kop with his brothers. To say they were fanatics was an understatement with one brother later naming his first-born son Ian St John Johnson.

The Johnson clan travelled to away games on the British Rail specials from Lime Street, in the back of vans or even hitchhiked. David idolised Roger Hunt. He was, like so many Scouse kids in the 1960s, one of Shankly’s disciples.

But when scouts from both Liverpool and Everton tried to persuade the 15-year-old Liverpool Schoolboys striker to play for their clubs, it was Goodison Park he opted for as he felt there was a better pathway to the first-team. “I sort of broke my brothers’ hearts, really, by signing for Everton,” he admitted.

There was more family heartbreak to come. In November 1971, on his Merseyside derby debut at the age of 20, Johnson scored the only goal as Everton beat Liverpool 1-0 at Goodison. He had already scored for the Blues on his league, European Cup, FA Cup and League Cup debuts.

Shankly wanted David at Anfield and made more than one enquiry to Everton boss Harry Catterick, but the Blues wouldn’t let him cross Stanley Park. They instead sold him to Bobby Robson’s Ipswich Town, plus £40,000, in exchange for the Suffolk club’s record goalscorer Rod Belfitt in November 1972.

“After meeting Bobby Robson I signed for him in five minutes,” he recalled. “He was that impressive and the crowd instantly took to me as a favourite.”

Johnson’s pace, bravery, movement, unselfish runs and goals endeared him to the Portman Road faithful as they finished fourth in Division One during his first season and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

The following season they knocked out Real Madrid, beating them







1-0 at home and drawing 0-0 in the Bernabeu. After being injured by a vicious challenge in a first-leg win against Lazio, Johnson returned for the second leg in the Stadio Olimpico as a substitute and scored a 90th-minute effort from the edge of the box that knocked the Italians out.

It was one of 46 goals he scored for Ipswich – three of them against Liverpool – and in 1975 he got his first cap for England, scoring twice against Wales at Wembley on his debut before following it up with a goal in a 5-1 victory against Scotland in the Home Nations Championship.

David played alongside Kevin Keegan and against Kenny Dalglish in that Scotland game. He would soon end up becoming a strike-partner for both.

A £200,000 offer by Spurs was turned down by Johnson as he was happy in East Anglia, but when Bob Paisley – searching for a long-term replacement for John Toshack – made an offer for him in August 1976 it was a different story.

"I said [to Bobby Robson], 'Where's my matchboots?' He said, 'What do you want them for?' I said, 'Well when I go up there I'm not coming back'."

David joined the Reds for £200,000 and played upfront alongside Keegan, scoring his first goal on his third appearance against Birmingham City at St Andrew's and his first Anfield goal two games later against Coventry City. But with Toshack and David Fairclough also at the club he wasn't always a regular starter.

He scored eight goals, five of them in the league, as Paisley's men won the 1976/77 league title and started in the FA Cup final against Manchester United at Wembley, but the Reds were beaten 2-1.

Paisley subsequently decided to start Ian Callaghan – whom he'd brought on for David – instead in the European Cup final against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Rome with Johnson an unused substitute. Even so, he ended his first campaign at Anfield as a league and European Cup winner.

"In my first season, to room with Kevin Keegan and to win the championship, to be involved in an FA Cup final and also be involved in a European Cup campaign which culminated in a great final in Rome, was a fairytale. It was something special."

Keegan's departure that summer heralded the arrival of Dalglish from Celtic with Johnson now rooming with Steve Heighway, but injury restricted him to 17 appearances and five goals in season 1977/78 and also forced him out of Liverpool's 1-0 European Cup final success against Club Brugge at Wembley.

He did, however, score the only goal when the Reds beat Everton 1-0 at Goodison Park in April 1978 to become the first player to score winners for both teams in the Merseyside derby.

"I must admit, that goal in front of the Gwladys Street was far sweeter than the one I got for Everton against Liverpool," he told the *Liverpool Echo* in 2008. "The fact that I had played for Everton and then gone back there to score a winner for Liverpool made the stick I got that day even worse. I still don't think Evertonians have forgiven me, but I was pleased to get some stick because it meant I had done something right."

In 1978/79 his strike partnership with Dalglish began to flourish. The pair created 12 goals for each other – including one of Johnson's two in the famous 7-0 Anfield win against Spurs – as Liverpool swept all before them to win the league title while only conceding 16 goals in 42 games.

"The 1978/79 team is often cited as our best-ever," wrote former *Through the Wind & Rain* fanzine editor Steven Kelly on Twitter. "Davey Johnson was a big part of it."

Celebrating that particular success in front of the Kop stuck in David's mind. "When you do that lap of honour and you've got the trophy, it's something you always look back on because the amount of pressure you're under to win trophies is extreme pressure," he told LFCTV.

"Mentally and physically, to get over the line, you've got to do it together. It's a collective thing. We weren't a team of individuals. We were a team"

David scored 18 goals – 16 of them in the league – that season





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Red Together





and was even more prolific in 1979/80, netting 27 times – 21 of them in the league – as Liverpool's title-defence culminated in the aforementioned 4-1 final day win against Aston Villa at Anfield.

A week later he also netted twice as England beat world champions Argentina, who had 19-year-old Diego Maradona in their side, 3-1 at Wembley.

Both Liverpool and Johnson struggled for goals in season 1980/81. His return of 13 – eight in the league – was a drop-off from previous years although David did net the only hat-trick of his Liverpool career during a 5-0 FA Cup win at home to Grimsby Town. He also supplied the assist for Ray Kennedy's goal against Bayern Munich in Germany that sent the Reds into a third European Cup final in five seasons.

Johnson led the line against Real Madrid in Paris and was well-placed for Alan Kennedy to pull the ball back to after the left-back's 81st-minute run from a throw-in took him into the Spaniards' box. But instead of doing so, AK surprised everybody – including himself – by sticking the ball in the net for the only goal.

"He scored some brilliant goals for this club, but the one thing he always used to go on about to all of us ex-players is Alan Kennedy's winner in the 1981 European Cup final against Real Madrid," recalled fellow Scouse striker John Aldridge as he paid tribute to David on liverpoolfc.com.

"He used to say to Alan: 'Why didn't you square that ball to me, why didn't you pass it?' And 'Barney' used to say he tried to, but he mis-hit it, and we were all in raptures laughing together about it! David was a great goalscorer in his own right and he doesn't get the acknowledgement that he probably merited, for me."

It was a special night for David. "I had two European Cup winners' medals but hadn't played in either final [in 1977 and 1978] so to play in 1981 and walk up the steps as a winner was special to me. That will always be an emotional moment because that's what winning the European Cup with Liverpool meant to me."

The emergence of a young Ian Rush meant that 1981/82 was Johnson's last at Anfield. He scored another seven goals as the Reds recaptured the league title and made a notable contribution in the League Cup final with two extra-time assists, for Ronnie Whelan and Rush, as Liverpool beat Spurs 3-1 at Wembley.

He left Liverpool having won eight major honours and returned to Everton, aged 31, in the summer of 1982. A few months later he was in the Blues' team when Rush scored one, Rush scored two, Rush scored three and Rush scored four in a famous 5-0 demolition by the Reds. "I got the most touches in the Everton team," he later joked.

After brief spells on loan at Barnsley and with Manchester City in 1984, he moved to the USA to play for Tulsa Roughnecks – but the North American Soccer League folded soon after and he returned to the UK to play for Preston North End and then finished his professional career as player-manager of Barrow in 1985/86.

In retirement, David became a financial advisor in the insurance industry, working at the Royal for over ten years, and was also a matchday host at Anfield, Hotel TIA and a media pundit, often on Radio Merseyside or LFCTV.

David Edward Johnson passed away aged 71 on 23 November 2022 and had already provided his own words to end this tribute to a much-missed Red.

"I'll always be grateful to my mum and dad, working-class people who supported me the best they could. It just shows that if you give your all and you're a 100 per cent player, you've got a chance. That's what I was. I was a Scouser who made good."

David Johnson. RIP.



HOW HE GOT THAT NICKNAME

It is well-told that David Johnson was nicknamed 'Doc' by his team-mates as he often had throat lozenges and headache pills in his bag, but perhaps less well known is that this was initially discovered due to Terry McDermott's perm! David recalled how it all came about in the 2005 book *Liverpool Secrets: Behind The Shankly Gates…*

"It was all down to Terry McDermott. When you're a footballer you're forever getting dressed, undressed, in the shower, out the shower, washing your hair and all the rest of it. There were no real facilities back when I was playing so you had to bring a bag with your shaving kit, shampoo and – most importantly – a hairdryer.

"Some of the lads had perms. They'd have to use these things that I can only describe as like a rake to flip hair up with. I used to have a hairdryer, brush, smellies, shampoo and so on and I used to carry it in a black bag.

"I always suffered with sore throats and tonsillitis so I always had Strepsils, Tunes or something like that in there and if you've always got your bag with you, nobody else brings anything in. They'd all be like, 'We'll just use Johnno's shampoo or Johnno's hairdryer'.

"Terry McDermott was always in there adjusting his perm and using my



hairdryer. Anyway, one day he finds the Strepsils and Tunes in there and he pipes up, 'He's like an effing doctor'. The name stuck and it snowballed from there.

"Whenever we travelled away I always carried the bag with me. Ronnie Moran and Joe Fagan would give me all kinds of pills like paracetamol and whatever else to carry in the bag so if anyone had a headache or anything they'd come to me. So I became known as 'the Doc'."


ROBERTSON
26



All we want for Christmas

Is a roaring Reds midseason reboot, says Andy Robertson who's now equalled the Premier League record of 53 assists by a left-back – and he has no plans to stop there

ANDY, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY MAKES A COMPLETE MODERN DAY FULL-BACK?

If I had that complete answer, I'd probably do it! I think it's hard to answer because different teams use their full-backs in different ways but I think they're such a huge part of the game now, whereas maybe ten to 15 years ago they weren't as important.

I think you have to be able to do both sides of the game. On one hand, you have to be able to attack well – to join in the attack, be able to try to create chances and things like that. But on the other hand, you also have to be able to defend. For me, that's the most important thing and it always has been because you're in the line of a back-four or a back-five and you need to be able to defend and you need to be able to try and keep the winger that you're up against quiet.

If you do that then that's half the battle and then you can start trying to attack, go forward and start maybe enjoy the game a bit more.

Having said that, I get as much enjoyment from trying to keep a winger quiet in a game as I do from setting up a goal. So I think you have to do both. You have to be good going both ways now, whereas previously you perhaps just had to defend and stay at the halfway-line.

I think the full-back position has become a lot more demanding tactically and a lot more physically demanding as well.

Full-backs are quite important in a lot of the systems that managers are using now. I think you can see, by the fact that transfer fees for full-backs are probably at an all-time high with a lot of them going for big money, just how important managers see full-backs these days.

WHO'S YOUR FUNNIEST TEAM-MATE?

I don't like to take the credit but there's not many in there that could rival me. I think I'm definitely up there! Trent can be funny, so can Ox and Hendo. James Milner's got the kind of dry humour but you often laugh more at him!

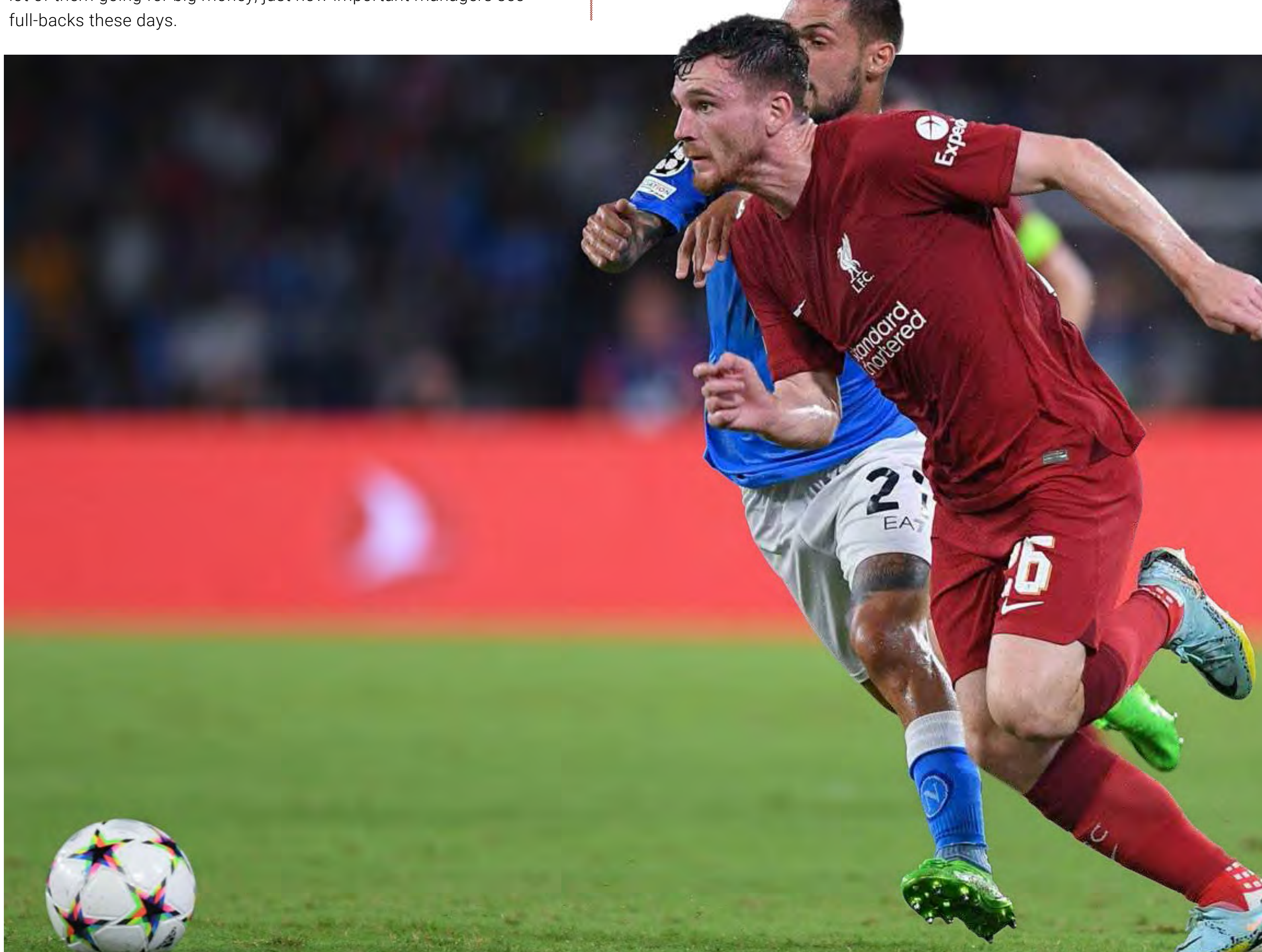
I'll say Ox. He's good value on a night-out, he's good value in the changing-room and I think he brings a lot of personality to the party so, yes, I would say Ox.

JAMES MILNER WAS ASKED WHICH LIVERPOOL PLAYERS WOULD EXCEL IN OLYMPIC EVENTS AND HE SAID YOURSELF AND DIOGO JOTA AT SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING BECAUSE OF YOUR SKIN COMPLEXION – NOW YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF REPLY!

It's hard to disagree! We're both very pale. But I would point out that one of us is from Scotland where it's sunny about three days a year. The other one's from Portugal where it's sunny all-year round. So I think it says more about Jots than it does about me, to be honest, but we are the palest in the squad along with Caoimhin Kelleher, who is Irish, so I think he and I have an excuse.

Unfortunately I don't know where Jots gets it from. He must have a bit of Scottish in him and I've always told him that! I tried to find out so I could get him in the Scotland national team but he wasn't having any of it!

It's hard to complain at Milly's comment. We're not good at swimming but we do have the same skin tone.



Full-backs are a huge part of the game now, you have to be good going both ways and it's a lot more demanding tactically and physically, and transfer fees for them are at an all-time high

MOHAMED SALAH IS CLOSING IN ON SEVERAL LIVERPOOL GOALSCORING RECORDS – IS HE THE BEST AFRICAN PLAYER YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH?

I've been very lucky to play with a couple of really good African players. Obviously Mo goes without saying. He's been a pleasure to work with and he's been unbelievable for Liverpool. He's been the best player in the world at times and what he can do with the ball at his feet is pretty special.

But I would also mention my left-hand side partner for many years, Sadio [Mane]. Our partnership was so special. I loved playing with him in front of me and we worked so well down that left-hand side together and we just knew each other's games inside out by the end of it.

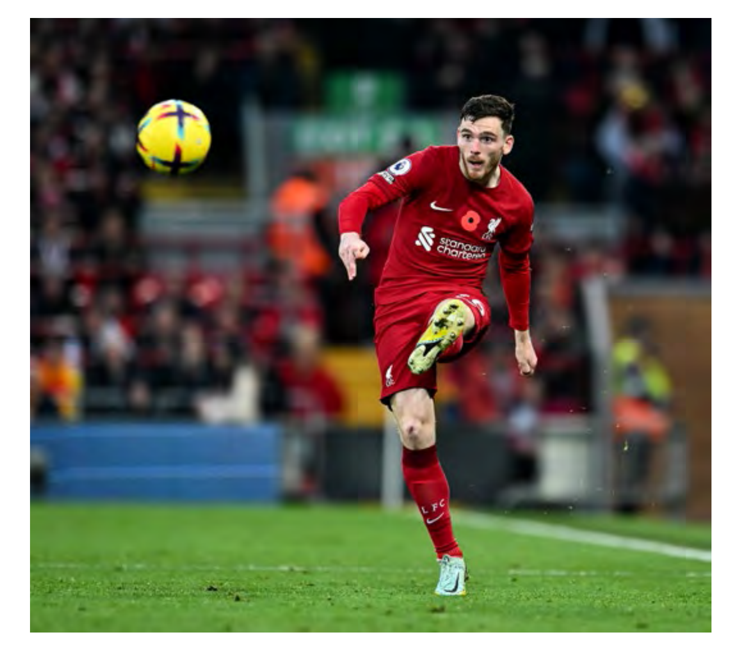
We knew what we needed from each other and what we wanted from each other so I think Mo and Sadio are definitely the best two that I've played with.

AND HOW ABOUT THE BEST AFRICAN PLAYER YOU'VE PLAYED AGAINST?

I'd say Riyad Mahrez. I've always come up against him playing on the right wing whether that was for Leicester or Man City and he's always a tricky customer to come up against. He makes life difficult for you but we've always had good matches against each other and he's obviously another fantastic African player.

WHO IS ONE AFRICAN PLAYER YOU WISH YOU COULD HAVE PLAYED ALONGSIDE IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?

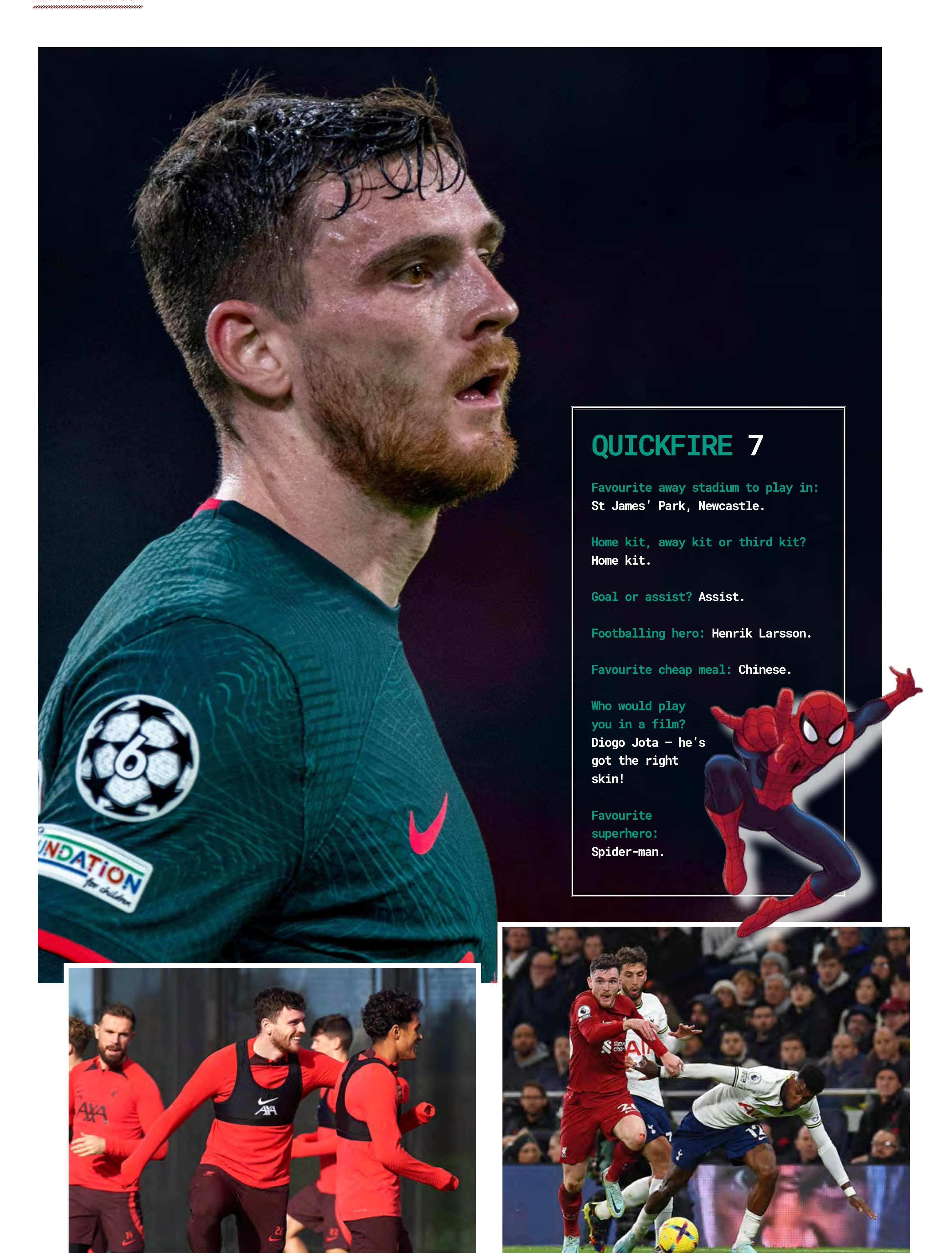
I would say Didier Drogba. With the way I play in terms of the fact



that I like getting forward and putting crosses in the box and things like that, I think Drogba could get on the end of a couple of my crosses.

He was a powerhouse in the air, he was so strong, so physical. When crosses came in for Chelsea he was always on the end of them and he scored so many goals for a very successful team. So I think if I had to pick one I would go with Drogba, for sure.





QUICKFIRE 7

Favourite away stadium to play in: St James' Park, Newcastle.

Home kit, away kit or third kit? Home kit.

Goal or assist? Assist.

Footballing hero: Henrik Larsson.

Favourite cheap meal: Chinese.

Who would play you in a film? Diogo Jota – he's got the right skin!

Favourite superhero: Spider-man.

WHICH AFRICAN NATION DID YOU THINK WOULD GO FURTHEST IN THE WORLD CUP?

Senegal. I thought they were a bit of an underdog. Obviously they won the Africa Cup of Nations and they've got a really good squad with a lot of big players. I thought they could be a bit of a surprise package so I backed them to go furthest.

BACK WITH THE REDS, CAN YOU TRY AND SUM UP THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON – IT'S BEEN QUITE STRANGE HASN'T IT?

Yes, it's been disappointing. I think what a lot of people connected to Liverpool would say is that you can point to certain facts like the injuries and so on, but at the end of the day when I look at the team that's been out there every week and all the starting elevens, it's been good enough to win games and we've not been able to do that often enough in the Premier League.

The position we're in, the points we've got and the points we've dropped has not been to the usual high standards that we've set. So it's trying to find something that can kick-start our season.

We've had moments where maybe a lot of people thought that was about to happen, like Bournemouth when we won 9-0 and everyone probably thought: okay right, now Liverpool are going to get going. But then we had a setback again. We had an incredible night here against Man City and then we backed that up against West Ham but then we got two really disappointing results on the back of that against Nottingham Forest and Leeds.

There have been some good performances and results in there, but it's just lacking a bit of consistency and that's what we've been so good at over the years and that's what we need to get back to.

We finished the first part of the season well with good wins against Napoli, Tottenham, Derby County and Southampton and we've got no choice after Christmas other than to try and get everything back because we're quite a bit behind where we want to be.

This club deserves to be higher up the table and we'll be determined to do that.

THE MANAGER LOOKS FOR POSITIVES IN EVERYTHING BUT ADMITTED THAT HE COULDN'T HAVE FELT ANY WORSE AFTER THAT HOME DEFEAT BY LEEDS UNITED…

Yes, Leeds was a massive low point. I don't think we played overly badly in that game and we created a couple of good chances so the game could have gone differently, but I think from very early on you knew that the game was going to be on a knife-edge with the position that they were in and the pressure that they were under and the pressure that we were under too.

Obviously we gave them a goal start with a poor goal from our point-of-view but we bounced back really quickly to make it one-each. I think after that it seemed like the next goal was going to win it and it wasn't going to be a game where one team ran away with it.

We tried to push for the win and we didn't quite take the chances that we should have done and then we got hit by a huge sucker-punch right at the end.



> There have been some good performances and results but it's just lacking a bit of consistency and that's what we've been so good at over the years and that's what we need to get back to – we need to be higher up the table

The goal should have been defended so much better in so many areas that you know, that one hurt. The home form's been good this season but that one was obviously a bad result for us and there's been a few of them this season so, as I say, that one did hurt.

Luckily we picked ourselves up for Napoli the following midweek and I thought Napoli was a good performance from the lads and a good win. But consistency is key and we need to try and find that.

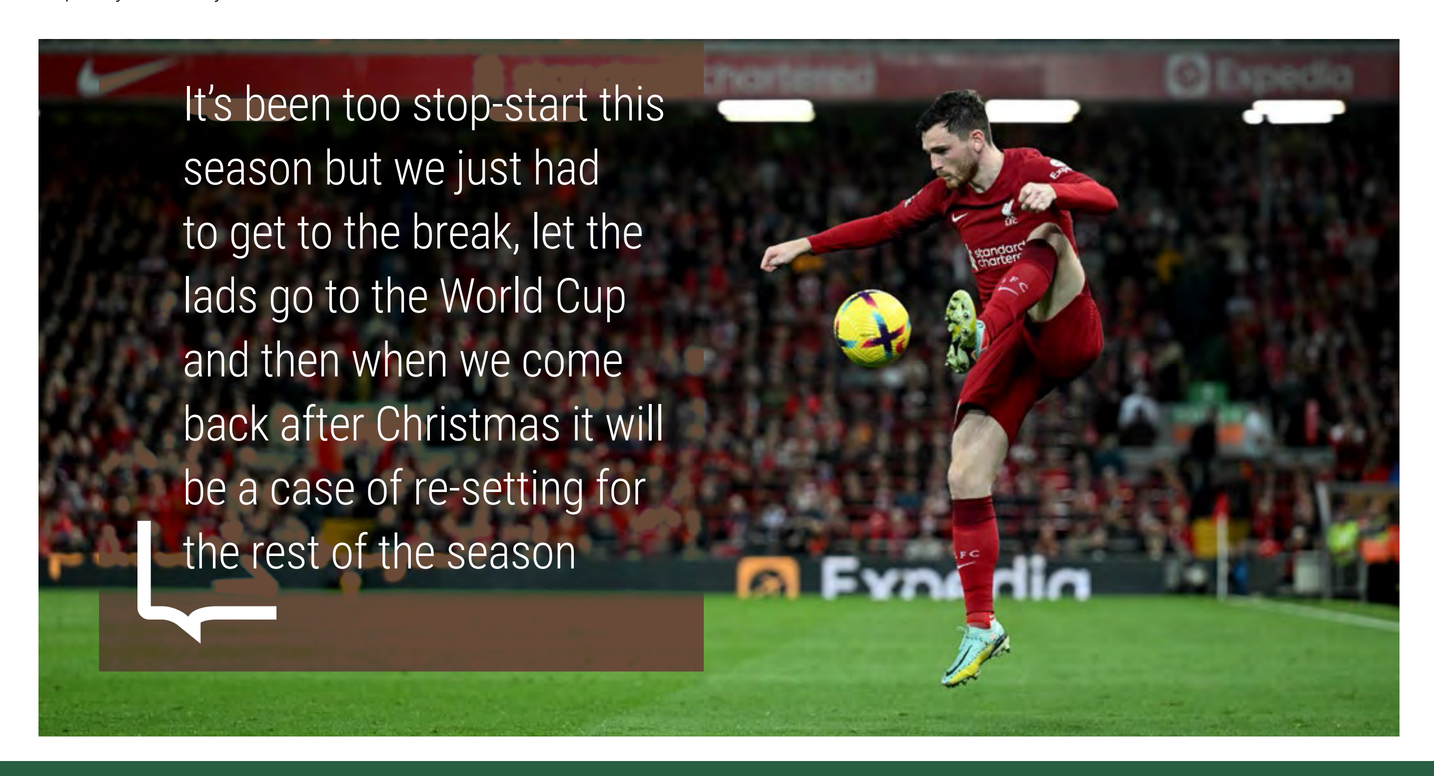
We need to try and get on a run of results and get a run of form to start climbing that table because we're nowhere near where we want to be.

CAN YOU DRAW ON THE EXPERIENCES OF 2020/21 WHEN THE TEAM HAD A POOR RUN BUT RECOVERED TO FINISH THIRD?

Hopefully! Obviously the COVID season behind-closed-doors was one where we struggled after Christmas. I think we were top of the league at Christmas and then hit a really bad run of form and I think we were eighth with something like six or seven games to go and nobody expected us to get top four and we ended up finishing third so it showed what is possible.

The squad was a lot weaker back then than it is just now because of the amount of injuries we had then. It seemed that season that everyone who played centre-back got injured straightaway and were unavailable. So yes, we've been there before but we have to fight to get out of it. The manager has to fight, we have to fight, and it has to start somewhere.

It's been too stop-start this season but we just had to get to the break, let the lads go to the World Cup and then when we come back after Christmas it will be a case of re-setting, everyone going again and then let's see what happens in the second part of the season.



ROBBO'S FIVE-A-SIDE DREAM TEAM

Andy was asked to select a five-a-side team of his current Liverpool team-mates and here's who he chose…

"Whenever this question comes up, a lot of our players answer it by always giving the same players. They always put in the same suspects so I'm going to mix it up a little bit!

"I'll put Ali in goals because he's good with his feet, good with his hands, and a good all-round goalkeeper. I'm going to put myself at the back, so I could just have a free role at the back.

"Then I'll go for two midfielders. I'll have Oxlade-Chamberlain because his shooting is special and I think I'd need goals in the team and then I'd have Thiago in the middle with him. Then I'm going to have Bobby Firmino up top because when we pass the ball to him we want to keep it for as long as we can.

"I know most people would put Virgil in ahead of me but I'm the manager so I get the say! People would understandably put Mo in as well but I think Bobby's very underrated and I also think Bobby would do what I tell him to do whereas Mo might give me a wee bit back!





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THE BEST PRESENTS

It's a time for giving, a time for getting, and the LFC Academy has certainly been generous with its recent gifts to the first-team squad



The start of the Reds' defence of the Carabao Cup proved a proud night for all involved at the club's academy. The thrilling penalty shoot-out success against Derby County in the third-round tie at Anfield saw full debuts for a handful of talented youngsters plus an exciting cameo off the bench from another.

Midfielders Stefan Bajcetic and Bobby Clark made their first senior starts for Liverpool, as did winger Melkamu Frauendorf, forward Layton Stewart and defender Calvin Ramsay.

Meanwhile winger Ben Doak, just two days before his 17th birthday, made his first appearance as a substitute for Fabio Carvalho with 16 minutes remaining and gave all present glimpses of his pace and direct running as he fearlessly drove at the Derby defence at the Kop end on several occasions in those closing stages.

After the game Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said of the Scot: "That's Ben. His instructions were easy: do what you do all the time.

"He is really a lively boy, a smart player, good dribbler, fast, can use both legs. He's good. It was nice to watch, really nice to watch – him coming in and immediately a lot of things are obviously natural to him, which is really helpful.

"I am pretty sure his family was here tonight. I can remember when I saw the family at the AXA [Training Centre] when we signed the boy, how excited everybody was. Now having this night, it's the next step, it's cool. He 'showed up', obviously."

A few days later, Doak put pen to paper on his first professional contract with the Reds.

A summer signing from Celtic, the exciting wide-player started the season with Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's Under-18s side and also made appearances in Premier League 2 and the Papa Johns Trophy for the U21s and notably for Barry Lewtas' U19s side in the UEFA Youth League.

Ben scored four goals and provided four assists to help the young Reds top their Youth League group and progress to the last 16 in the new year.

Words: William Hughes

A day after turning 17, he was named on the bench for a Premier League fixture for the first time, being an unused substitute in Liverpool's 3-1 win over Southampton at Anfield.

His birthday week continued to get better when he recorded an assist for Scotland's Under-21s in a 2-1 friendly defeat by Iceland. He played a key role in the opening goal of the night setting up defender Max Johnston for Scotland's strike in the encounter at Fir Park, Motherwell.

"We're all very confident of the potential Ben has but he still has to go and do it – credit to him, he did it again," Scotland manager Scot Gemmill said post-match.

Another Scot making his first start in the shoot-out win over the Rams was right-back Calvin Ramsay.

Although signed from Aberdeen in the summer as a member of the senior squad, an injury had restricted his appearances until November when he came off the bench to make his debut in the Champions League victory over Napoli.

As he worked his way back to fitness, the 19-year-old figured on three occasions for the club's academy sides. He came off the bench to score in a 3-2 defeat at Accrington Stanley in the Papa Johns Trophy on 18 October before starting the Premier League 2 wins over Everton and West Ham later that month, finding the net again in the latter of those fixtures.

Just hours before the Carabao Cup game against Paul Warne's side, Ramsay received a first call-up to the senior Scotland squad for a friendly against Turkey on Wednesday 16 November, joining Anfield team-mate and Scotland captain Andy Robertson for the match in Diyarbakir.

After playing his first 90 minutes for the Reds at Anfield, the no22 said: "It has been brilliant. I made my debut for Liverpool in the Champions League which was a good moment. Then I got my full debut, my first start in the cup and played well so that was very good. And on top of that, the Scotland call-up for the first time.

"It was a brilliant week for me and for my family as well, it's a proud moment for us all.

"Obviously I was injured when I first came here. I wanted to come and just get started straight away but it wasn't the case, I was out for a month or two.

"I was ready to get back and get onto the pitch. I knew what the atmosphere would be like. I was obviously a bit nervous before both



Melkamu Frauendorf

Bobby Clark

Ben Doak

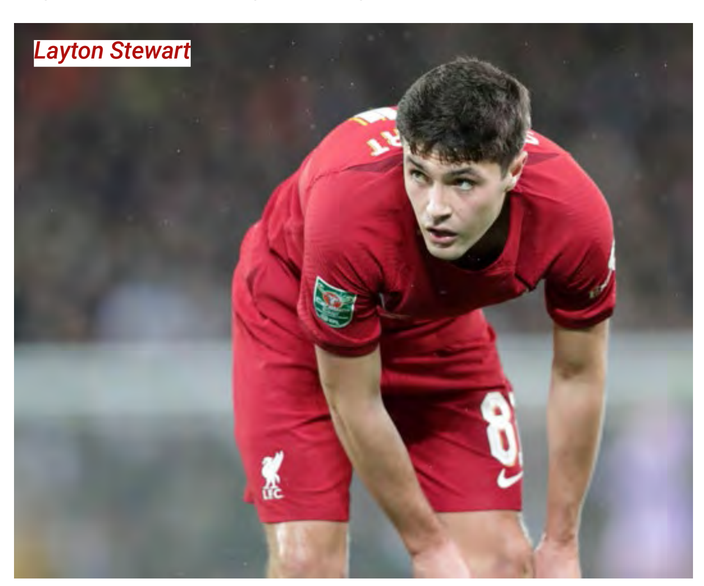
of the games but once I got my first touches and settled into the game, I think I coped with it alright. Hopefully I can get some more now."

Calvin went on to make his senior Scotland debut in that friendly against Turkey. He came off the bench to replace Newcastle's Ryan Fraser for the game which saw Steve Clarke's side fall to a 2-1 defeat. Club-mate and fellow full-back Andy Robertson played the full game.

If Liverpool's latest Scots contingent were thrilled to play their first fixtures for the Reds, local lad Layton Stewart had a night he'll never forget in that match against Derby. The 20-year-old forward has battled back from a long-term injury this season, scoring seven goals in 11 games at Under-21s level.

A dream came true for the Scouser when he was handed the no81 shirt and named in Klopp's starting line-up for the fixture. Stewart played 66 minutes before being replaced by Darwin Nunez for the final quarter of the game.

"I think it's the first time in my life that I've ever been speechless!" he told liverpoolfc.com post-match.


Layton Stewart


Stefan Bajcetic

"When I walked out [onto the pitch] my whole body went stiff, I just knew my mum and dad would be in the crowd absolutely buzzing, and that was for them for the sacrifice that they have done for me throughout the years of trying to get here.

"I've dreamed of this since I knew what Liverpool was, since I've been coming week in, week out to watch them.

"To step foot out on the pitch at Anfield… again, I don't have words to describe it really. I hope I've made my family proud and it's a great moment for me."

Spanish youth international Stefan Bajcetic and Bobby Clark had both made their Premier League debuts in the club record 9-0 win over Bournemouth back in August, while German youth cap Melkamu Frauendorf had his first taste of Anfield action last January as a substitute in the 4-1 win over Shrewsbury Town in the Emirates FA Cup third-round.

All three have featured regularly for Lewtas' Under-21s side this season.



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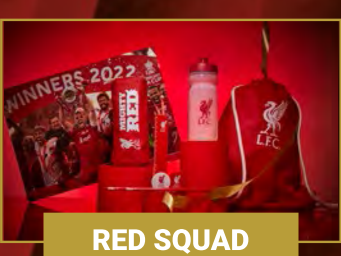
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Speaking to the media ahead of the game against Derby, senior assistant-manager Pepijn Lijnders described Bajcetic, signed from Celta Vigo in February 2021, as a 'present' from the Academy.

"Stefan is a joy to watch," he said. "He has all the characteristics we search for as a midfield player. He played in the past as a centre-half, so he's really good in the challenges, which we need.

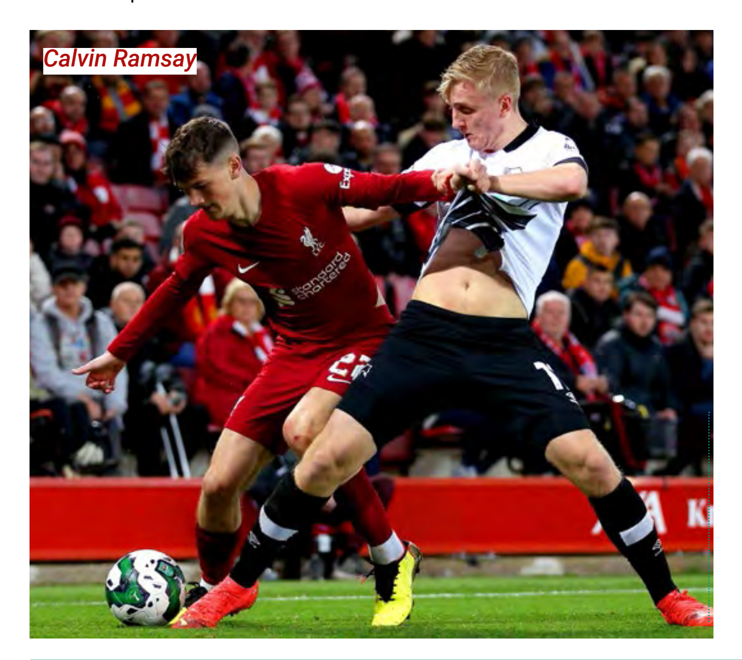
"One of our bigger problems this season is stopping counter-attacks, so we can stay in the opposition half. He is the type of player who has this attribute. It's really nice to see. He's young, hungry, shows every day in training that he's really ready.

"It's up to us to lead well with him, give him the right moments and all these things. Honestly, sometimes the Academy gives you presents, and he's one of them."

Liverpool also named a youthful bench against the Rams in the Carabao Cup with the unused substitutes including another quartet of players who have impressed for Lewtas' squad this term: goalkeeper Harvey Davies, defenders Jarell Quansah and Luke Chambers plus midfielder Jake Cain.



Fabio Carvalho



Calvin Ramsay

"If you work for this club, you have to trust young players, because the generations before made this club," added Lijnders. "We have to create again this kind of environment where young talent can step up and be decisive.

"Of course, we want to see them [play]. It would be idiotic not to do that, because the talent is huge. Otherwise, all the time, all the energy, all the money we invest, also our owners, our staff, first-team staff, academy staff, it doesn't make sense to have 200 boys there running around and not using them.

"If something has been proven over the last years, it's that we need the whole squad if you want to be successful and that's why we brought young players in, like Calvin, like Fabio [Carvalho], and we always try to mix these games with a lot of experience with talent.

"The reason why we change [the line-up for the Carabao Cup] is always that we want freshness and we want talent and we believe that to win the game, we always want to put a team out who has to prove, who wants to show, who wants to bring us further in this cup."

U21S TAKE THEIR PLIC!

Liverpool Under-21s made a winning start to their Premier League International Cup campaign with a 2-0 win over Dinamo Zagreb.

On the same night that the first-team defeated Derby County in the Carabao Cup, a superb early strike from forward Lewis Koumas (right) gave coach Barry Lewtas' team a good start.

A fine individual effort from winger Trent Kone-Doherty then cemented the victory over the Croatian visitors in the second half.

The 2022/23 tournament involves 24 teams, with half coming from Premier League 2 and half from development squads across Europe. The teams are split into three groups of eight for the opening stage and each match pairs a PL2 side against a European opponent. The top two finishers in each section will progress to the knockout phase, joined by the two best third-placed teams.

The quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be single-leg contests consisting of 90 minutes, with extra-time and a penalty shoot-out used if required. The competition is for the U16s to U21s age groups, but clubs are able to call on up to six over-age players: five outfielders and one goalkeeper.

Next up for the Reds is a game against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday 11 January 2023 before they host SC Braga on Wednesday 18 January and Hertha BSC on Wednesday 1 February, all at the Kirkby Academy.



THE LIONESS OF LIVERPOOL

Former Liverpool player Kerry Davis was the first black woman to represent England when she made her debut in 1982. Now inducted into the National Football Hall Of Fame, she chats with William Hughes about her remarkable career



Interview: William Hughes

KERRY, HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN FOOTBALL IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I started playing as a little kid. I used to go everywhere with my brother Wayne and I just got into football. I used to play with my dad in the garden and my brother actually knew a lady whose daughter played for a team, Sandbach Ladies, which was relatively local to where I grew up in Stoke-on-Trent. He kept asking her if she would take me but she said I was too young as it was a ladies' team.

When I was 10 or 11 she came down to the house and asked whether I would like to go training with Sandbach and I said yes. I went off to training and I signed there and then. I was basically an 11-year-old kid playing against women but I was able to hold my own and did okay.

YOU MOVED ON TO CREWE ALEXANDRA WHERE YOU RECEIVED YOUR FIRST ENGLAND CALL-UP...

I didn't even know there was an England team for women until I joined Crewe. I went to watch an England game at Leicester City, although I can't remember who they were playing against.

I'd stayed with Sandbach until I was 16 and then joined Crewe Ladies because the coach there, John Fleet, said that he could develop and progress me and my ambition was to play at the highest level.

I was quite successful there. We played in a local league, the Three Counties. What was really nice for me was that I made my debut for England against Northern Ireland at Crewe Alexandra's ground, Gresty Road.



YOU LEFT TO GO AND PLAY IN ITALY WITH LAZIO, TRANI AND NAPOLI – HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

I was playing for England in an annual tournament that they used to have in Italy called the Mundialito. They used to hold it in a place called Jesolo which was a tourist area with lovely beaches and the sea. It used to generate good crowds because a lot of Italians would go there for the holidays.

I was spotted by Lazio and a few weeks after I came back home after the tournament I had a phone call from Anne O'Brien, an Irish international who played for Lazio. The club had asked her to call me to ask if I would be interested in joining them. They paid for my plane ticket and I went over as it was something that I wanted to do, play football abroad.

It was really semi-professional football but I didn't have to work and I just thought it was too good an opportunity to turn down. Even though I didn't know the language or quite what I was letting myself in for, I just wanted to play football.

I definitely have fun memories of my time in Italy and I met some fantastic players but most importantly fantastic people. I had a very positive time. People in this country probably first heard about Lazio through Paul Gascoigne but I was there first!

YOU WERE THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO REPRESENT ENGLAND [KERRY HAS A JAMAICAN FATHER AND ENGLISH MOTHER]. WERE YOU AWARE OF THE FACT THAT YOU WERE BREAKING DOWN BOUNDARIES AT THE TIME?

I think when you're from an ethnic background and dual heritage you notice it whenever you go to a new place, you really do. I was aware of it but I was just there to play football. It was very important to me to represent the community that I'm part of.

JOHN BARNES HAS SPOKEN VERY ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THE ISSUES HE FACED WITH RACISM IN HIS CAREER – IS THAT SOMETHING YOU ENCOUNTERED?

I probably had more difficulties at school than I did within football. You'd hear casual racism and inappropriate language a lot of the time and then it was up to you as an individual whether you wanted to call that out.

But within football I don't have any negative memories and we didn't have the abuse that the male footballers had. When I see so many black players involved in the women's game or former players working in the media, I definitely feel very proud.

I think we've had some great pioneers on the female side, people like Eni Aluko. I'm very proud of what she's done, what she's achieved and how she's handled herself. It is very pleasing to see.

YOU REJOINED CREWE ON YOUR RETURN FROM ITALY THEN JOINED KNOWSLEY UNITED LADIES IN 1992 WITH THE TEAM COMING UNDER THE LIVERPOOL FC UMBRELLA IN THE SUMMER OF 1994...

Sylvia Gore, the former England international, worked as a football development officer for Knowsley Council and she had a lot to do with what Knowsley became. Liz Deighan, another former England player, was the manager and she phoned me up and asked if I would be interested in joining them. She also asked Maria Harper, who was one of the players, to call me.

It coincided with the formation of the National League and like every player you want to play against the best to develop and improve yourself and to have that challenge. So I joined Knowsley. They used to play at Knowsley United Football Club and we did really really well.

We had some really good players there and Liz was a good coach. I was always used to training just once a week with Crewe, whereas Knowsley trained twice a week and tried to just improve and take women's football forward.











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YOU PLAYED IN A WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL WITH LIVERPOOL IN 1994…

Yes, I think we played Doncaster Rovers Belles at Scunthorpe and lost 1-0. Liverpool were a good team and reached three cup finals in a row around that time. That's how the ball started rolling for the team to come to where it is today and it was down to a lot of people who worked tirelessly to get there.

They played one game at Anfield but by that time I'd left to join Croydon so I was quite disappointed about that.

I wouldn't say there was lots of change at first because they didn't invest as much money and time as they do now. I think it was a gradual change. They provided us with the Liverpool kit which was much better and we all had a club tracksuit. It was just little details like that which helped make a player feel better about themselves and gave you some pride.

YOU WERE THE LIONESSES' TOP SCORER WITH 44 GOALS UNTIL KELLY SMITH PASSED THE RECORD – WERE YOU ALWAYS A FORWARD?

I actually started off in midfield and I preferred to play in midfield because I liked to be at the centre of my team. But Martin Reagan was the England manager when I was playing and when he called me up into the squad for my first game against Northern Ireland, he put me in at centre-forward so that's where I stayed. But I think even when I played in midfield I always had a knack for scoring.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOUR ENGLAND GOALSCORING RECORD WAS BROKEN IN FEBRUARY 2012?

Kelly Smith was a fabulous player and records are always there to be broken, aren't they? No record stands forever but mine stood for quite a long time so that's something that I'm very proud of. I'm dropping down the list now but that's going to happen and they do play a lot more games nowadays.

There are two things I hold on to: one is my goals-per-game ratio and the other is that I scored five goals in one game and that's not been broken yet but I would imagine it will go soon. I'm just hanging on to little bits!



YOU WERE PART OF THE ENGLAND TEAM THAT REACHED THE FINAL OF THE WOMEN'S EUROS IN 1984, LOSING TO SWEDEN ON PENALTIES [KERRY SCORED HER SPOT KICK!] HOW DID IT FEEL TO SEE THE CURRENT TEAM LIFTING THE TROPHY IN THE SUMMER?

The biggest thing for me is that women's football is in its rightful place. When the final whistle went against Germany, I just thought: yes, this is where I want women's football to be.

I think the only thing they still need to develop is to allow girls to play football in schools because the grassroots is important for the game to grow. It's great that there are those elite players that are recognisable and role-models to young girls and boys, but you need other players coming through too.

There's a lot in place but I just think it's really important that girls should be allowed to play football.



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Thank you. I'm very proud. I played for some good teams, had some good coaches and was surrounded by great players. I feel fortunate to have had a good career and it's nice to be recognised in this way.



LIONESSES TOP FIVE GOALSCORERS

Player	Goals	Caps	Goals per game (%)
Ellen White	52	113	0.46
Kelly Smith	46	117	0.39
Kerry Davis	**44**	**82**	**0.54**
Karen Walker	40	83	0.48
Fara Williams	40	172	0.23



KERRY GOLD

BORN: Stoke-on-Trent, 2 August 1962.
CLUBS: Sandbach Ladies, Crewe Alexandra, Lazio, Trani, Napoli, Knowsley United, Liverpool FC Women, Croydon, Millwall.
ENGLAND CAPS: 82. England goals: 44.
Represented England for 16 years, and played in the World Cup, Euros, and also scored for the Lionesses at Wembley.

GOT A MO...

Words: Chris McLoughlin

"It was sick," replied Fabio Carvalho when asked about making his Champions League debut in the 7-1 win against Rangers during an interview in the Liverpool v Napoli matchday programme.

Not only did such terminology confirm that he is 20 years old, it was a timely phrase to use as I can't be the only one who is sick of Liverpool playing Napoli.

November began with the sixth competitive Liverpool v Napoli match – the eighth overall if you include the friendlies in Dublin and Edinburgh – in four years. That's the same number of times the Reds have played Aston Villa in the same period and we've drawn them in both domestic cups. Who needs a European super league?

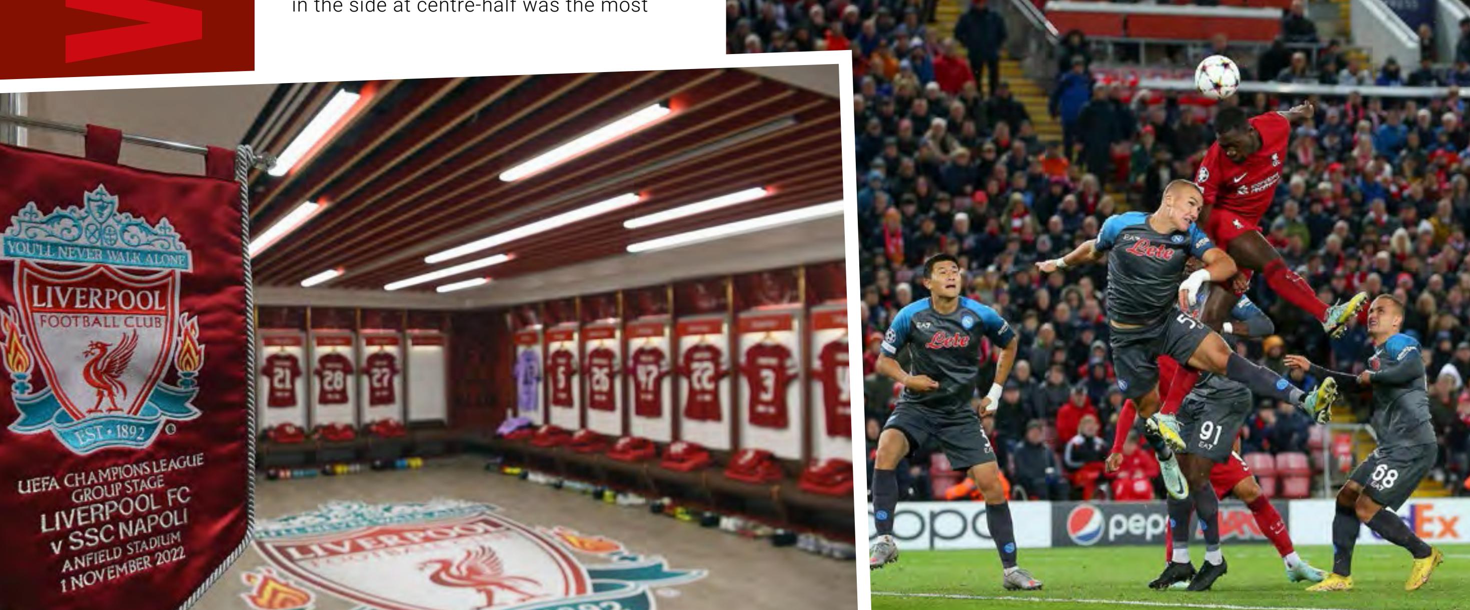
With both sides already through to the last 16 it was also a deceased eraser unless Liverpool could win by four goals or more to nick top spot from the Neapolitans. At no stage did that look likely.

Curtis Jones had a good first half and Thiago forced a decent save from Alex Meret, but seeing Ibrahima Konate back in the side at centre-half was the most encouraging bit of the opening 45 minutes. Don't OPTA me if you know differently, but the Reds look far less likely to concede with Ibou in the team.

His mate at the back, Virgil van Dijk, made his 200th LFC appearance and thanks to two late goals he set a new club record of 138 wins from that double-century of games. That's some win ratio at the top level of football.

There was also a debut for Calvin Ramsay. He became the 39th teenager to get a game under Jürgen Klopp, although BBC Sport's ratings algorithm perhaps went a bit OTT by giving the Scot player of the match with a rating of 7.47 given he only came on in the 87th minute.

The same rating system also had Mo Salah as the worst Liverpool player on the pitch with a rating of 5.97. Somebody send a reprogrammer to Media City please to save any further embarrassment. At least Mo got the equivalent accolade from CL partners PlayStation.





Salah came closest to scoring in the first half and, after Napoli had a goal disallowed by VAR for offside, it was the night when Mo equalled Steven Gerrard's club records of 41 goals in European competition and 18 goals in the Champions League.

Bundling the ball in after Darwin Nunez's header had been clawed off the line won't go down as his greatest goal, but like competitors in the world addition championships they all count.

As did Nunez's 98th-minute tap-in, although when the offside flag went up Virgil was properly fuming as his header was going in anyway before the Uruguayan poached it. Thankfully VAR spared us an international incident by spotting Nunez was onside.

Napoli were beaten for the first time since April and that was Liverpool's group stage completed in style, albeit with a second-placed finish.

It was also Klopp's 400th game in charge of the Reds and evidently Liverpool City Council were so impressed with his win-record being over 60 per cent that they awarded him the Freedom of the City of Liverpool.

Sadly it won't allow the Liverpool manager to drive his sheep down Castle Street or put them to pasture at LiverpoolONE as such civic awards are now purely ceremonial, but it left him feeling a tad emotional.

"It's great, I cannot really describe it," said Klopp, who joins Bob Paisley, The Beatles, Ken Dodd, Gerry Marsden, Jimmy McGovern and Nelson Mandela as a Freeman of the City. "I was never in a similar situation in my life, to be 100 per cent honest. It was a bit overwhelming tonight.

"We love living here. We will not live forever here because at one point we will go back to Germany, whenever that will be, but it was always clear we will stay connected. We have still a lot to do and that's what we will do. And I can't wait to keep going."

Also picking up another award was Salah – his winner against Manchester City was announced as Liverpool's goal of the month for October with Alisson voted Standard Chartered player of the month – but James Milner was going nowhere at the weekend with concussion protocols activated following his substitution against Napoli ruling him out of the trip to Tottenham.

Meanwhile in Malaysia, Reds legend Sami Hyypia was



Alisson's header. Trent's corner. Bobby's no-look goals. Hendo's trophy shuffle...

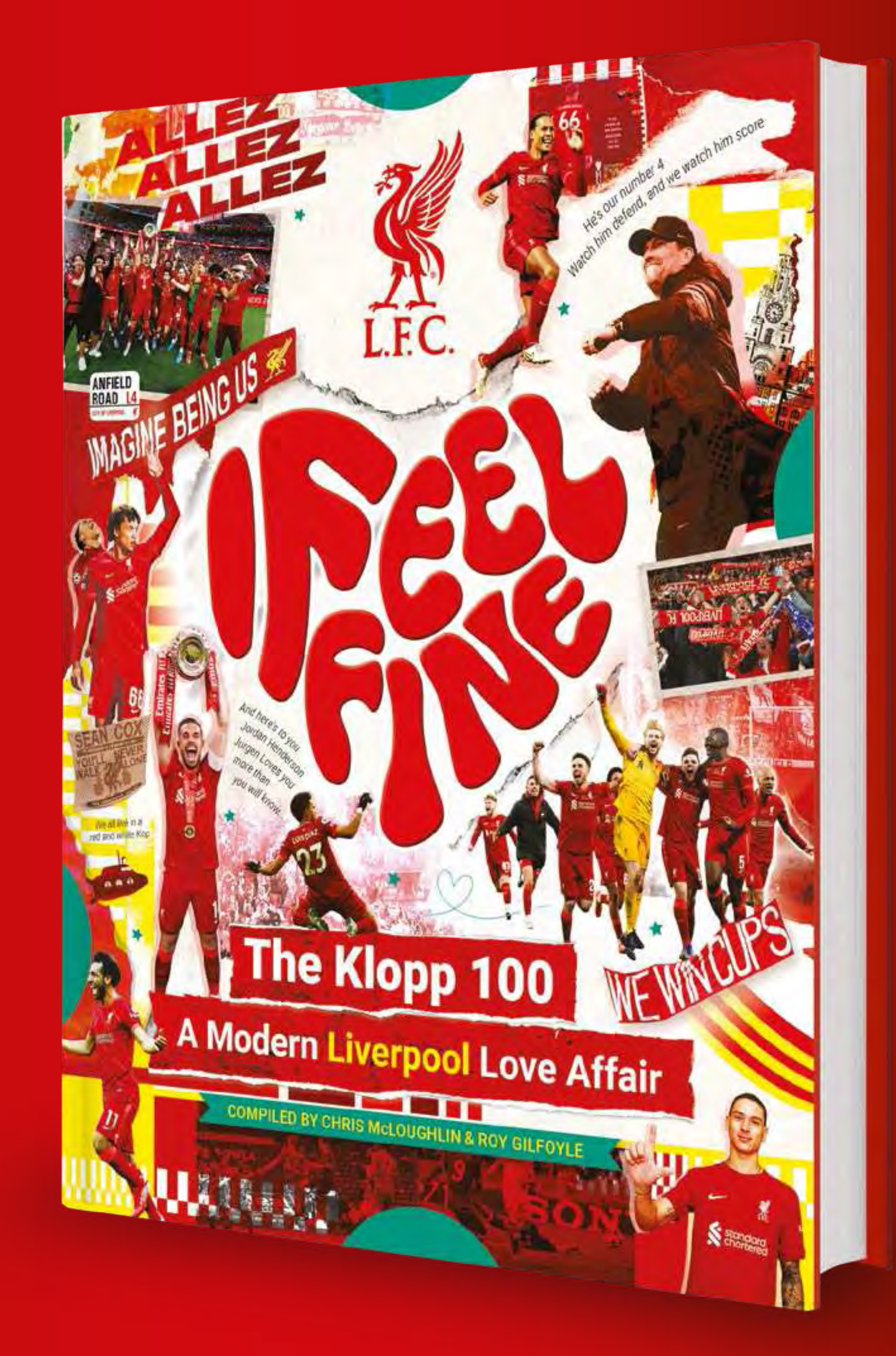
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I've no idea if this magazine is on the shelves there, but if it is and you're reading this monthly article for the first time in Kuala Lumpur then a big hello from Liverpool and next time you're in the shop buy a copy of the new *I Feel Fine* book. It's really good.

Back to the footy and after forgetting that it wasn't the 1970s and losing to Nottingham Forest and Leeds, the Reds really, really, really needed a win at Spurs. The Premier League table didn't make good reading – 16 points from 12 games and no away league wins left the Reds closer to the relegation zone than the top four – but then they just love playing at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

After two wins and a (highly dubious) draw there in the previous three visits Liverpool returned to N17 and chalked up another victory, this time by two goals to one. As they say in the big book of footballing cliches, it was a game of two halves, Clive.

Without the injured Son Heung-min, home boss Antonio Conte reverted to a 5-3-2 formation that seemed to give Andy Robertson and Darwin Nunez the freedom of the left flank. So after Nunez forced Hugo Lloris into a flying save it was no surprise at all that Liverpool's opening goal came from that side of the pitch.

Robertson, who had so much space that he could've erected a tent and cooked haggis on a campfire before being approached by a Spurs defender, pinged a pass into Nunez and he rolled the ball for Salah to flick up and volley home. One-nil.

Alisson deflected an Ivan Perisic header onto the post, but Liverpool deserved another goal and got it five minutes before the interval when Eric Dier's attempted back-header had less power than the National Grid this winter and Salah scooted through before delightfully lifting the ball over Lloris. Two-nil.

"When you look back on Mo's career in four, five or six years, everybody will remember one of the best strikers you ever saw because the numbers will be absolutely insane," said Klopp afterwards. "Tonight, what pleased me the most, he scored the two goals and then he played like a real, real team player. He was all about first defending and then you will get your chances."

Liverpool had to defend in the second half as Conte changed things around and Tottenham remembered how to play football. Perisic hit the bar and Harry Kane got a goal back, but the closest they came to equalising was from a cross that everybody missed, so not that close at all thanks to some resolute defending.





"It's a big win for the team, a massive win," said Konate. "The last ten minutes was very difficult for us, but I think we can see everyone was together and it was with that we won today. Of course we are very happy and I hope the fans are very happy as well."

Oh we were, Ibou, but less so with the Champions League draw the following day. Liverpool v Real Madrid. Again. All five of Liverpool's previous Champions League campaigns under Klopp's management have either been ended *by* Madrid (Real 2018, 2021 and 2022, Atletico 2020) or ended *in* Madrid (2019, champions of Europe). The difference this time is that we'll play both matches at Anfield and Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in front of crowds.

"It is proper Champions League," said Klopp. "This is a tie that speaks for itself and one that we should all be excited about. Real's European record is the best around. We know this. But we also know that ours is not too bad.



"On top of this, we know that we have Anfield and everyone knows what this means. The games themselves are still a few months away, but it does not take a great deal of imagination to think what the atmosphere will be like at both games."

Hopefully better than the atmosphere must have been in Bobby Firmino's house when Brazil coach Tite announced his World Cup squad without Liverpool's no9 in it. Call me biased, but I haven't got a Scooby-Doo how Flamengo striker Pedro got in ahead of Bobby after making just one appearance for Brazil in two years.

At least Alisson and Fabinho got the nod, but neither were in action when the Reds began their Carabao Cup defence against League One Derby County at Anfield.

Ramsay, Bobby Clark, Melkamu Frauendorf and Stefan Bajcetic got their first starts and Layton Stewart, who had the best chance to score in the first half, made his debut, but it was 16-year-old Scottish forward Ben Doak who really caught the eye when he came on for the final 16 minutes. Quick, confident and direct, he's got Michael Owen vibes about him.

The Rams played for, and got, a 0-0 draw. Some might say it was an acceptable tactic against a team two divisions above them, but it didn't take into account that penalties would follow and Liverpool had Caoimhin Kelleher in goal.

Even when Bajcetic missed Liverpool's first spot-kick – which should have been retaken as Derby goalie Joe Wildsmith was so far off his line he could have shaken hands with his team-mates in the centre-circle – Kelleher had the air of a man so relaxed that he may well have had slippers on instead of boots.

Cork's coolest keeper simply responded by making saves from Conor Hourihane, Craig Forsyth and Everton loanee Lewis Dobbin. Despite Firmino sending his penalty into the Derby fans, it left Harvey Elliott with the chance to win it and he sent Wildsmith the wrong way and the Reds into the fourth round.

Amazingly it was Kelleher's fourth penalty shoot-out win, a mad club record for a lad who has only made 18 appearances, but if you thought it was a happy night for him you should have heard Derby boss Paul Warne eulogising about Klopp in the post-match press conference.

"He's just massive," he said. "All I kept thinking was: if my missus is looking at me this is very emasculating because it feels like he is seven foot and I was in a hole! Good guy, good footballing guy and in fairness to Liverpool I would say this – and it is creepy – but this is some place, innit?

"When they sang *You'll Never Walk Alone* before, I got a bit goose-pimply. It got louder and louder and louder. There's some clubs with some pretty good songs beforehand, and I have played here before, but it was something else.

"I appreciate when you're the away team there's always animosity but there was no abuse from any fans towards us – in fact I was having a craic with a few of them. It just felt like a proper game and a proper atmosphere."

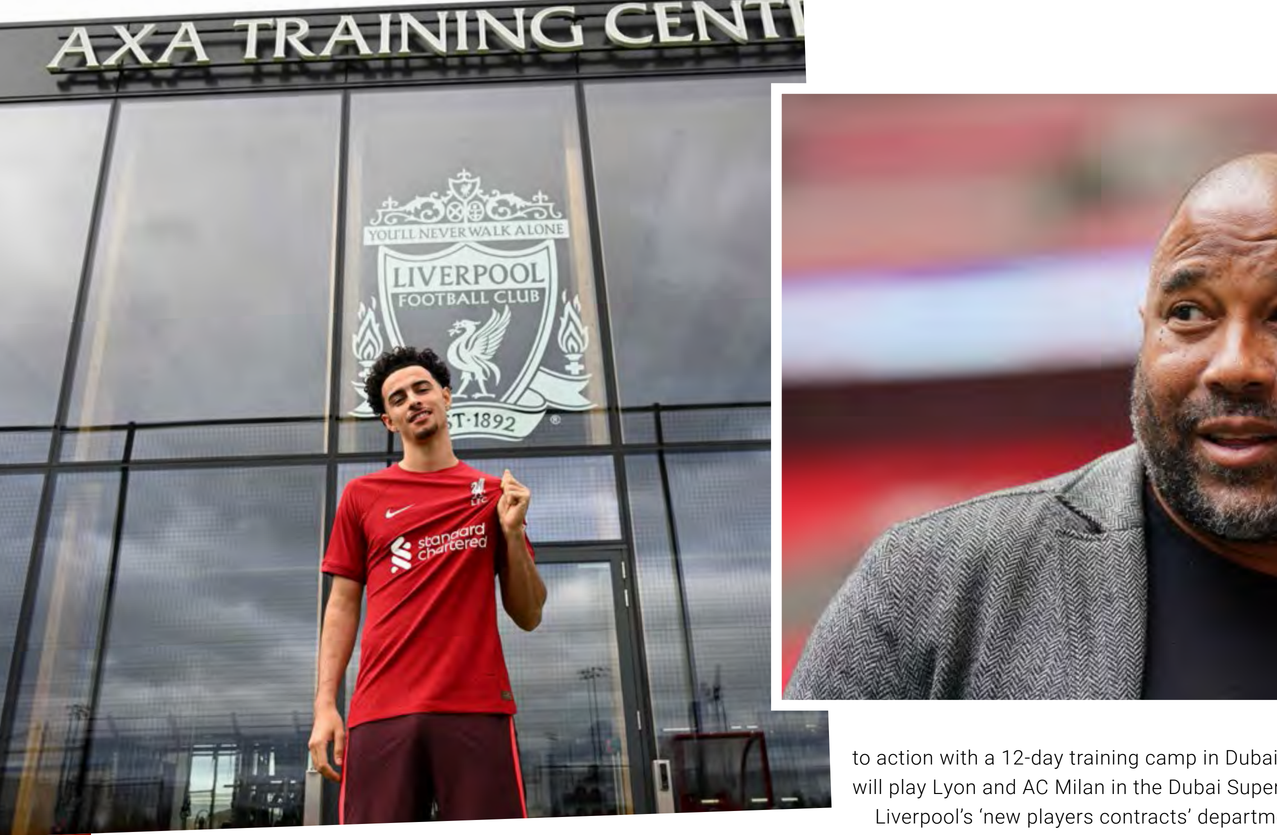
It'll be a proper game in the next round as Liverpool were drawn away to Napoli, sorry, Real Madrid, sorry, Manchester City. With the game scheduled at the Etihad three days before Christmas, when several players from both sides are likely to be on post-World Cup breaks, you've got more chance of predicting the EuroMillions numbers than the 22 players who start that one.

Speaking of the World Cup finals, Nunez, Henderson, Alexander-Arnold and Van Dijk all got their call-ups before Liverpool signed off for the traditional November footballing jamboree in Qatar with a 3-1 home win against Southampton, who arrived in L4 under the new management of Nathan Jones.

Firmino and Che Adams exchanged early headed goals from free-kicks that featured suspect marking, but then Nunez saw off the Saints with his first Premier League double at Anfield. Elliott made the first with a lovely clipped pass for Nunez to cushion the ball home on the volley and his second was a true centre-forward's finish as he slid in to convert Robertson's low cross.

It was Andy Robbo's second assist of the day and took his tally to 53 in the Premier League, equalling the record for a defender set by Leighton





Baines. It was also Milner's 600th Premier League appearance, which he won't like hearing is 42 games more than Leeds United have played in the division.

And that was it for Liverpool's November, at least on the pitch anyway. While our seven World Cup players – Konate being the seventh to be called up – headed off to Doha and some others had international friendlies to play, it was holiday time for the rest of the lads. Although maybe it's a bit chilly for Skegness, which perhaps also explains why the Reds will return to action with a 12-day training camp in Dubai where they will play Lyon and AC Milan in the Dubai Super Cup.

Liverpool's 'new players contracts' department certainly weren't on annual leave. They had Jones, Doak and Dominic Corness all through the door to pen contract extensions.

"I want to thank the coaching staff for having the belief in me as always, for giving me the chance," said Curtis. "And of course for me, I'm over the moon, I'm buzzing."

There was also another appointment with the announcement that one of our all-time greats, John Barnes, was Liverpool FC's newest club ambassador. His first job needs to be to pull his old team-mates John Aldridge and Ian Rush into line as it's rumoured that, with the players away, they snuck into the AXA Training Centre for a kickabout with goalie Chris Kirkland while all wearing

Christmas jumpers. Don't let the boss catch you, lads.

Speaking of legends, there was sad news on 23 November when it emerged that ex-Reds striker David Johnson had passed away at the age of 71. "On and off the pitch, I loved him," said Aldo as he led the tributes. "It goes without saying at our former players' Christmas party this year we will be remembering him and raising a big glass to him.

"He was a huge Liverpool fan like many of us and Liverpool along with his family was his life."

As November drew to a close, and the day before another ex-Red in Kolo Toure was appointed as Wigan Athletic manager, Anfield hosted the FA Cup third-round draw with Mark Wright drawing out the home teams.

Former Liverpool and Everton goalie Rachel Brown-Finnis drew out the away teams and between them they picked Liverpool v Wolves, Manchester City v Chelsea and Manchester United v Everton.

By the time Wolves visit Anfield the Kop will have an additional 2,500 rail seats installed upon it, taking the total to 4,300, unless they all go on a rail-strike with Mick Lynch.

Speaking of strikes, there was no stopping Katie Stengel as she netted twice for Liverpool Women at Reading, but following up the 3-3 at Brighton with another 3-3 wasn't quite the result Matt Beard's team were looking for. Hopefully the 1-0 Continental Cup success against Blackburn is the start of a winning run.

Anyway, there's a World Cup ongoing with six of our players through to the last 16, although the way Jude Bellingham is hanging out with Trent and Hendo in the England camp makes it feel like seven Liverpool players are through.

And may all your Christmas wishes come true as well…



DEC/JAN

WHAT'S ON





CONTINUE WATCHING?

Jürgen Klopp's men resume their 2022/23 campaign with a Carabao Cup fourth-round date at Manchester City on Thursday 22 December. Just four days after the World Cup final, the Reds make the short trip to the Etihad as reward for their third-round penalty triumph over Derby County.

The Premier League programme gets back underway with a tea-time kick-off at Unai Emery's Aston Villa on Boxing Day before the Reds play their final game of 2022 at home to Leicester City on Friday 30 December.

The new year begins with a trip to Brentford before Liverpool begin their defence of the Emirates FA Cup with a third-round home date against Wolves on Saturday 7 January.

To prepare for those matches the Reds will play two friendlies while in Dubai for a warm-weather training camp this month. The members of the first-team squad who are not at the World Cup will spend 12 days in Dubai, with those involved in Qatar joining the group once their nation's participation in the tournament has concluded.

Klopp's squad will first contest the Dubai Super Cup, meeting French outfit Lyon at 2pm GMT (6pm local time) on Sunday 11 December, followed by a tie with reigning Italian champions AC Milan – whose squad includes Divock Origi – at 3.30pm GMT (7.30pm local time) on Friday 16 December.

Both games will take place at the Al-Maktoum Stadium.





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DEC/JAN

WHAT'S ON

YOUNG REDS TAKE ON PSG



Liverpool's Under-21s made a winning start to their Premier League International Cup campaign when they defeated Croatian side Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 at Kirkby last month.

Next up for coach Barry Lewtas' men is an attractive-looking fixture against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday 11 January (7pm). Before that they resume their fixture programme with a Premier League 2 clash at home to Tottenham on Sunday 8 January (2pm).

The Under-18s visit Derby County in their final game of 2022 on Saturday 17 December (noon) before kicking off the 2023 programme at home to Blackburn Rovers on Saturday 7 January (11am) in another league fixture.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

ANNIVERSARIES

68 years since Liverpool's record league defeat (ouch), 1-9 at Birmingham City, on 11 December 1954.

42 years since Ian Rush made his senior debut as a promising 19-year-old forward in a 1-1 draw at Ipswich Town on 13 December 1980.

41 years since the Reds first played in the World Club Championship on 13 December 1981.

56 years since a young Johan Cruyff scored twice at Anfield for Ajax in the second leg of a European Cup second-round tie on 14 December 1966.

67 years since Jimmy Melia made a scoring LFC debut versus Nottingham Forest on 17 December 1955.

61 years since Liverpool's first-ever game under new manager Bill Shankly on 19 December 1959.

And it's 95 years since Gordon Hodgson scored a special hat-trick on 26 December 1928...

Of all the games the Reds have played in the traditional footballing slot of Boxing Day, they have never been as rampant as they were against Burnley in 1928.

The Clarets were on the back-foot at Anfield from the start and Liverpool's ace South African centre-forward, Gordon Hodgson, celebrated his 100th league game for the club with a post-Christmas hat-trick.

Fellow forward Jimmy Clark and right winger Dick Edmed both bagged braces with forward Bill Salisbury netting the other. The score could have been far greater as full-back Bob Done missed a penalty, the Reds had three goals ruled out for offside and also hit the woodwork seven times – the crossbar on three occasions and the posts twice each!

Half-back Tom Bush, a team-mate of Hodgson's, admitted that the Reds were often reliant on Hodgson's prowess in front of goal.

In 1969 he reflected: "There is more thought put into the game now then when I was playing. In my playing days we depended far more on individual skill than today's team-work.

"A player like Gordon Hodgson, for instance, had tremendous heading ability and we used to play to that."

No player has scored more hat-tricks for Liverpool than Hodgson who netted 17 trebles on his way to final statistics of 241 goals in 377 games for the Reds between 1926 and 1935.

The dominant win over Burnley also highlighted the bizarre nature of the Christmas fixtures of the day. Around 24 hours earlier, the Clarets had beaten Liverpool 3-2 at Turf Moor in a Christmas Day fixture!

BIRTHDAYS

Steve Nicol 61 on 11 December
Stephen Warnock 41 on 12 December
Daniel Agger 38 on 12 December
Ceri Holland 25 on 12 December
Michael Owen 43 on 14 December
Martin Skrtel 38 on 15 December
Carla Humphrey 26 on 15 December
Gary McAllister 58 on Christmas Day
Leighanne Robe 29 on Boxing Day
Peter Krawietz 51 on 31 December
James Milner 37 on 4 January
David Fairclough 66 on 5 January




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FIXTURES 2022/23

L.F.C.

			KO	TV	SCORE	SCORERS
JULY						
30	Manchester City (Community Shield)	N	5pm	itv	3-1	Alexander-Arnold, Salah (pen), Nunez
AUGUST						
6	Fulham	A	12.30pm	BT	2-2	Nunez, Salah
15	Crystal Palace	H	8pm	Sky	1-1	Diaz
22	Manchester United	A	8pm	Sky	1-2	Salah
27	Bournemouth	H	3pm		9-0	Diaz 2, Elliott, Alexander-Arnold, Firmino 2, van Dijk, Mepham og, Carvalho
31	Newcastle United	H	8pm	BT	2-1	Firmino, Carvalho
SEPTEMBER						
3	Everton	A	12.30pm	BT	0-0	
7	Napoli (UCL M1)	A	8pm	BT	1-4	Diaz
13	Ajax (UCL M2)	H	8pm	BT	2-1	Salah, Matip
OCTOBER						
1	Brighton	H	3pm		3-3	Firmino 2, Webster og
4	Rangers (UCL M3)	H	8pm	BT	2-0	Alexander-Arnold, Salah (pen)
9	Arsenal	A	4.30pm	Sky	2-3	Nunez, Firmino
12	Rangers (UCL M4)	A	8pm	BT	7-1	Firmino 2, Nunez, Salah 3, Elliott
16	Manchester City	H	4.30pm	Sky	1-0	Salah
19	West Ham	H	7.30pm	AP	1-0	Nunez
22	Nottm Forest	A	12.30pm	BT	0-1	
26	Ajax (UCL M5)	A	8pm	BT	3-0	Salah, Nunez, Elliott
29	Leeds United	H	7.45pm	Sky	1-2	Salah
NOVEMBER						
1	Napoli (UCL M6)	H	8pm	BT	2-0	Salah, Nunez
6	Tottenham	A	4.30pm	Sky	2-1	Salah 2
9	Derby County (Carabao Cup 3)	H	8pm		0-0	Won 3-2 on pens (Chamberlain, Nunez, Elliott)
12	Southampton	H	3pm		3-1	Firmino, Nunez 2
DECEMBER						
22	Manchester City (Carabao Cup 4)	A	8pm	Sky		
26	Aston Villa	A	5.30pm	AP		
30	Leicester City	H	8pm	Sky		
JANUARY						
2	Brentford	A	5.30pm	Sky		
7	Wolves (Emirates FA Cup 3)	H	8pm	itv		
10/11	Carabao Cup Q-F					
14	Brighton	A	3pm			
21	Chelsea	H	12.30pm	BT		
25	Carabao Cup S-F 1					
28	Emirates FA Cup 4					
FEBRUARY						
1	Carabao Cup S-F 2					
4	Wolves	A	3pm			
13	Everton	H	8pm	Sky		
18	Newcastle	A	5.30pm	Sky		
21	Real Madrid (UCL R16 1)	H	8pm	BT		
25	Crystal Palace	A	7.45pm	Sky		
26	Carabao Cup final	N				
MARCH						
1	Emirates FA Cup 5					
4	Manchester United	H	3pm			
11	Bournemouth	A	3pm			
15	Real Madrid (UCL R16 2)	A	8pm	BT		
18	Fulham	H	3pm			
18	Emirates FA Cup Q-F					
APRIL						
1	Manchester City	A	3pm			
8	Arsenal	H	3pm			
11/12	UEFA Champions League Q-F 1					
16	Leeds United	A	3pm			
18/19	UEFA Champions League Q-F 2					
22	Nottm Forest	H	3pm			
22/23	Emirates FA Cup S-F	N				
25	West Ham	A	7.45pm			
29	Tottenham	H	3pm			
MAY						
6	Brentford	H	3pm			
9/10	UEFA Champions League S-F 1					
13	Leicester City	A	3pm			
16/17	UEFA Champions League S-F 2					
20	Aston Villa	H	3pm			
28	Southampton	A	4pm			
JUNE						
3	Emirates FA Cup final	N				
10	UEFA Champions League final	N				
TBC	Wolves	H				
TBC	Chelsea	A		Sky		

All fixtures are subject to change

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NEIL MELLOR

Jürgen Klopp will know exactly how to deal with those players who come back from the World Cup whether they've exceeded expectations or felt disappointed

Liverpool have one of the best man-managers in world football in Jürgen Klopp and we are going to see that come to the fore again when our World Cup players return to the squad.

It has been great to watch six Reds – Jordan Henderson, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Alisson, Fabinho, Virgil van Dijk and Ibrahima Konate – reach the quarter-finals in Qatar. They haven't all played in every game, but hopefully will have gained added confidence to bring back to Liverpool.

We're in uncharted territory with a November World Cup. Those players will have a breather after the tournament ends but will be desperate to be back as soon as possible because there are big, competitive games coming up for Liverpool. This is where Klopp's man-management skills will come in.

Every player wants to succeed with their national team and we saw how much confidence winning the Africa Cup of Nations gave to Sadio Mane on his return to Liverpool. Success with Senegal improved Mane's performances in the second half of last season.

The flip-side was that perhaps Mo Salah's form dipped a little bit following the disappointment he experienced with Egypt at the same tournament, so the World Cup could yet have different impacts on the mentality and confidence of Liverpool's players, depending on how their tournaments end.

Klopp will know exactly how to deal with each of those players when they come back. Whether they've won, whether they've lost, whether they've exceeded expectations or whether they've left Qatar feeling disappointed, he will know how to quickly turn them from an international player into a Liverpool player again. That is going to be a big advantage for us.

In the meantime, the rest of the squad are in Dubai for warm-weather training and the change of scenery will do them good. It's also an opportunity to further build the togetherness of the squad and Jürgen is a big believer in these kinds of trips.

If any team wants to succeed they have to be together. Building togetherness on and off the pitch is crucial and while a couple of weeks away, warm-weather training and the friendlies against Lyon and AC Milan will be good for the players, the team-bonding and togetherness forged on this trip will also be vital if Liverpool are to be successful in the second half of the season.

The Reds restart with a Carabao Cup fourth-round trip to Manchester City. To me it feels like a semi-final because of our opponents.

It's the toughest possible draw Liverpool could have had and while it's a great game to look forward to, the young players who did so well against Derby County will have been hoping to be drawn against a lesser team to improve their chances of game-time.

I think we might see more experienced players at the Etihad, like we did in the Community Shield against City in August. It's a huge game for the season restart and with Salah not going to the World Cup and the likes of Luis Diaz, Joel Matip and Naby Keita all needing games after returning from injury, they will be in the manager's thoughts for this game. So I'm expecting a strong Liverpool XI and it's also worth remembering that only two clubs have won the League Cup during the last five seasons: Liverpool and Manchester City.

Pep Guardiola's men won't have enjoyed seeing Liverpool win it last season after their own success in the competition. Both sets of players understand how big the rivalry is between the two clubs now and they will all be desperate for more success. It's going to be a brilliant game to look forward to.

Our Premier League season then resumes at Aston Villa on Boxing Day and even though Liverpool are currently seven points behind fourth position in the table, I think a top-four finish is very achievable. Winning the title from here would be hard, but Liverpool can certainly close the gap and we just don't know how other teams will be affected by the World Cup.

The Champions League is also huge for the Reds, especially with the final being back in Istanbul this year. Again we got a tough draw, but maybe it'll be good to play Real Madrid in the last 16 rather than in a quarter-final or beyond.

You don't need reminding that they beat Liverpool in the 2018 and 2022 finals, but in-between were knocked out in the last 16 in 2019 and 2020, so perhaps it'll be a good time to catch them. It will be a tough one of course, but let's hope we can outplay them again and this time take our chances.

The Reds weren't quite at it before the World Cup, but with players coming back things can change quickly. There is plenty to look forward to and I believe that Liverpool will be in there fighting for everything when the season restarts.

Enjoy the festive period and here's hoping 2023 is a successful year for the Reds.

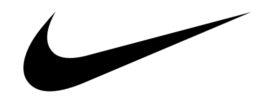


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